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JAN 9 1951
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA
Employee News Bulletin
FOR JANUARY 3, 1951

Plant scientists retire

SEVERAL well-known plant scientists retired recently from the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, among them Harry R. Fulton, a plant pathologist, whose studies on the cause and control of disease in citrus and other subtropical fruit were of major importance in the development of these crops in the United States. He had served 35 years and was project leader of research on citrus diseases. Robert L. Piemeisel, who retired after full-time service since 1924 and part-time since 1912, did widely recognized basic research on the ecology of Western range lands; he was stationed in Idaho. Roy W. Saunders, whose work began as an emergency demonstration agent in 1919, left after 30 years of service promoting one-variety cotton communities and, since 1934, acting as agronomist in charge of one-variety cotton research at Greenville, Tex.

Fred Reul Jones left after 33 years of service, all of it in cooperation with the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station; he made many valuable findings in his research on forage-crop diseases, among them his discovery of bacterial wilt in alfalfa. Edmund W. Knobel, who began his USDA career as an agent, retired after 39 years of service; he was widely known for the excellent quality of his soil maps and, during the war, he made special studies on the distribution of soils suitable for the production of castor-beans and sweetpotatoes. Leroy Moomaw retired after 32 years as superintendent of the Dickinson, N. Dak., Experiment Station which works on dry-land soil management, and Henri A. Kuyper, a native of Holland, retired as principal translator, having joined the Bureau in 1920.

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Insect tag

PLAYING TAG with insects has become serious business to entomologists who want to know, for instance, how far DDT-resistant flies are likely to spread, or the distance blowflies or mosquitoes ordinarily fly, so that adequate control measures can be instituted. So our entomologists have been using radioactive phosphorus from the Atomic Energy Commission's laboratories to tag insects, thus making studies easier of their flight range and distribution. Federal and State workers in Oregon devised two ways of getting radioactive phosphorus into the bodies of laboratory-reared flies and mosquitoes. Thousands were then released and later recovered in baited traps.

The tagged insects included houseflies and two common species of blowflies. Later it was easy to identify the trapped radioactive insects with devices that register radioactivity. Houseflies were trapped in all directions and at distances up to 12 miles, hence DDT-resistant flies can spread their ability for resistance into areas occupied by non-resistant flies. The insects are tagged either by being reared in a medium containing some compound made with radioactive phosphorus, or by flavoring a sugar sirup with radioactive phosphoric acid for sipping insects. Neither method appeared to injure or alter the habits of the insects.

"Sourcebook of Atomic Energy"

This is the title of a new book by Samuel Glasstone, prepared under the direction of the Technical Information Service, Atomic Energy Commission, with a foreword by Gordon Dean, AEC's chairman. It contains the first authoritative, integrated, nontechnical account of the historical background, present status, and possible future of atomic science, and is aimed at both the specialist and the general reader. Contract for publication was awarded D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., 250 Fourth Avenue, New York City 3, with the understanding that this 546-page, 350,000-word, illustrated, bound, and indexed volume would be sold at a low retail price: $2.90.

Hired man by wire

ELECTRICITY now performs more than 400 different chores on thousands of our farms. Water pumped by rural electricity is probably of most benefit to farm folk, for running water increases farm profits from the smallest truck garden to the largest dairy plant. For one cent, a one-third horsepower water system will pump as much water as hand labor in 4 hours. With plenty of water, yields from vegetable gardens increase by half. Electricity is also used to heat and sterilize the soil to give plants an early start. Electric beds boost the production and quality of many types of seedlings, while electricity also provides economical irrigation water in dry regions where gravity irrigation is impractical.

Water, pumped and heated by electricity, is an important factor in modern dairy practice. A plentiful supply of water, electric fly traps, clippers, ventilating fans, and sprays for the cows and the barns all help maintain the top sanitation standards required in this specialized industry. There are no flies on Bossie when she walks into her electrically appointed milking parlor. Recent experiments show that a single kilowatt-hour of power will milk 21 cows twice daily. Cows also produce from 10 to 20 percent more milk containing 6 to 12 percent more butterfat when their barns are equipped with running water and modern drinking facilities.

Other livestock farmers find electricity their greatest time and labor saver. Little pigs that spend the first week or two of their lives in an electric brooder amiably produce 10 to 25 percent more pork at weaning time because more of them live and they are healthier. Poultrymen have increased production by using electricity for water systems, lights, and complicated devices required in egg grading, poultry raising, and processing. Rural Electrification Administration co-ops, working with county agents and land-grant college experts, are also instructing farm wives in the efficient use of household electrical appliances.

We have mentioned but a few of the 400 uses found for electricity down on the farm. Electricity plays an endless role in increasing farm profits from every type of farm activity and in improving farm living standards. Fewer than 800,000 farm families now are without electric power. But REA co-ops are reaching even these out-of-the-way places.

The FAO meetings

THE FOOD and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, both the Council and a special session of the Conference, met in Washington, D. C., between October 25 and November 14. The Council, representing 18 governments with an independent chairman representing none, met just before and just after sessions of the full Conference of 68 member governments. The U. S. delegation was under the leadership of Under Secretary Clarence J. McCormick who continually stressed the importance this Nation attaches to FAO's work. Concretely, the U. S. delegation urged that the regular budget and program of FAO be expanded along with its expanding technical-assistance program.

During the first 5 years of its existence FAO was limited to a 5-million-dollar budget, but the Council instructed the Director-General to prepare a larger budget for 1952–53. The Conference reappointed Director-General Norris E. Dodd, a former Under Secretary of Agriculture, for another year, and approved the agreement with the Italian Government to establish permanent headquarters in Rome, the moving to be completed by May 1951. The Italian Government is providing two buildings for the headquarters. A North American Regional Office will be established in Washington, D. C. The Committee on Commodity Problems was continued and its duties were somewhat broadened. Through this Committee the Commodity Credit Corporation has offered some commodities at substantially reduced prices, much to the appreciation of countries able to avail themselves of the offer.

The U. S. delegation included, in addition to the Under Secretary, Stanley Andrews, Fred Rossiter, P. V. Cardon, Ralph Roberts, and F. M. Rhodes of USDA. Throughout, the delegation maintained close touch with a group of nongovernmental organizations—farm, labor, consumer, church, business, and scientific—which display a strong and continuing interest in the work of FAO.

Arkansas visitors

FROM JUNE through September 4,474 persons in 108 organized groups went on various farm-to-farm visits in Arkansas, to see how other farm families used Farmers Home Administration supervised credit to improve their farm setups. FHA State Director J. V. Highfill reported that business, professional, and other nonfarm people showed as much interest as farmers themselves—editors, radio workers, farm-equipment dealers, county agents, and representatives of farm groups. While some groups visited quite a number of farms, others inspected "demonstration farms" on which FHA clients had followed specific practices for pasture improvement, dairy-herd development, and so on. Improved practices observed throughout the State included the introduction of reseeding Crimson clover, the use of fertilizers, the development of better dairy herds, changes from one or two cash crops to diversified farming, progress towards balanced farming by Negroes, and many other evidences of good farm and home planning.

Representative Oren Harris was with one Nevada County group that saw a 100-acre farm unit that was being purchased via an FHA Farm-ownership loan, the operator of which is working closely with both FHA and SCS, and cooperating fully with PMA. Mr. Harris commented that the good practices followed on this and many other farms, and the fact that electricity is now available to so many farm families, assure higher living standards and hold better talent on farms. Said banker Fred Carter of Lake City: "If all farmers in this area were carrying out the kind of farm programs we've seen on these two farms the bankers around here would live 10 years longer." Kenneth Sewell, editor of the Nashville News remarked that he had not realized such a modern, convenient home existed as one he visited in Howard County, and the Rev. George Myer, Methodist minister in the same county, expressed himself as happy to see farm families given an opportunity to have new and modern homes.

L. H. Bailey Department

LIBERTY H. BAILEY, dean of the horticultural world and distinguished author and traveler, was 92 last March 15. He was making plans for a little jaunt to Africa when he became entangled in a revolving door in New York City, broke his hip, and was hospitalized. It was ironical that this durable and indefatigable scientist who has been in many of the most dangerous parts of the earth should have been injured thus. He gradually recovered from his accident but had to postpone his trip to Africa. Finally he compromised by going to the Isle of Pines off the coast of Cuba in search of more material for his monumental work on palms of the world—palmistry he calls it.

Bristow Adams has been urging Bailey to prepare his autobiography, but Bailey says that is much too unimportant. He also says that there has been too much exaggeration about the number of books he has written and published. Careful count up to 4 or 5 years ago disclosed that he had written and published only 65 books. He has written more than he has published, and hopes in time to prepare an essay on "Books I Have Burned"—but he has forgotten how many were burned, possibly 6, one of which was a novel, and its burning was a great solace to him. An active effort is being made to gather at Cornell all the information that may be had about Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey. It looks as if Bristow Adams intends to ghost Bailey's autobiography!

On November 11, we are sorry to say, Bristow was painfully injured when he got out of his car to investigate a rattle and the machine contrived to run over him. He lay on a lonely road an hour or so until a passing hunter helped him back into his car, whereupon he drove himself to the State police station and later to a hospital to undergo surgery. But he will walk again after hospitalization, as did Bailey. What rugged elders these are indeed—though, of course, Adams is a mere boy of 75.

Brief but important

Co-op handbook

Miscellaneous Report 142 from FCA is "Handbook of Cooperatives Processing Horticultural Products, 1948–49," by Anne L. Gessner. Get it directly from the Division of Information and Extension, Farm Credit Administration, USDA.

On mission

O. S. Aamodt, D. A. Savage, and Leonard G. Schoenleber of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, have been serving on and assisting an agricultural mission to Uruguay under the auspices of the International Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Dean a winner

Lyman A. Dean was one of the two winners of the Stevenson Awards of the American Society of Agronomy. The award of $500 was in recognition of Dr. Dean's study of the nutrient status of soils in commercial potato-producing areas of the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, and related research. Dr. Dean is in the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering.

Problems of co-op creameries

Cooperative creameries need more complete market information to market butter most efficiently. For more details on a study of this problem carried on under the Research and Marketing Act by FCA and the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, write Farm Credit Administration, USDA, for a copy of Circular C-136, "Butter Pricing by Iowa Creameries."

Early-maturing grain sorghums

If you want some current information on early-maturing grain sorghums for the Great Plains, *write* the editor of *USDA*, and request No. 2916.

Federal beef grades changed

The Production and Marketing Administration has announced Federal grade standards for steer, heifer, and cow carcasses as revised in line with a USDA proposal made May 12, 1950. The revision became effective December 29, 1950. For details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2841.

Federal Records Act

Secretary's Memorandum No. 1273, November 21, concerned Public Law 754, Title V of which, the Federal Records Act of 1950, provides for the inauguration of new and the extension of existing programs for the management of records throughout the Federal Government. For details write (or phone Ext. 3357) Secretary's Records Section, Office of Plant and Operations, USDA, Washington 25, D. C., and request a copy.

Mechanical cotton pickers

According to a Research and Marketing Act study carried on jointly by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the California Agricultural Experiment Station, the use of mechanical cotton pickers is bringing sharp reductions in harvesting costs for a number of farmers in the San Joaquin Valley. If interested in details *write* the editor of *USDA*, and ask for No. 2819.

Erle G. Brewer

We regret our failure to have mentioned the unfortunate death of Erle G. Brewer, leader of the Division of Japanese Beetle Control, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, who died October 20. He had been in the USDA since 1920, almost wholly in supervisory positions, and was widely known for his work on the Japanese beetle, gypsy moth, brown-tail moth, and Dutch elm disease. His headquarters was at East Orange, N. J.

Light in the office

We regret so many of you failed to get copies of "Light and the Office Worker," a valuable article by C. M. Fergusson, safety specialist, Office of Personnel, when we offered it in the November 8 issue. More copies have been procured. If you want this discussion of common lighting faults, eyestrain, age and visual performance, and light intensities needed for various tasks, *write* the editor of *USDA* and request it by title—name and address bottom last column, last page, as always.

To Uruguay

Among those attending the Fourth Inter-American Conference on Agriculture in Montevideo, Uruguay, which began December 1, were Secretary Brannan; Agricultural Research Administrator Cardon; Joseph Becker, Guy Bush, Ross Moore, and Fred Rossiter, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations; Chief Bennett and George Clyde, Soil Conservation Service; Director Henry Bosworth, Tropical Forest Experiment Station, Puerto Rico; Harold Hill, Production and Marketing Administration; James Cavin, Bureau of Agricultural Economics; Maurice L. DuMars, Office of the Secretary; Edward Kotok, Forest Service; Chief Hoyt, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine; Chief Salter, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering; Chief Simms, Bureau of Animal Industry; Director Wilson, Extension Service; and Frank Wadsworth, Tropical Experiment Station, Puerto Rico. Mrs. Kathyrn Wylie of FAR went as technical secretary to the delegation.

New cheese grades

Official standards have been issued for grades of cheddar cheese, replacing the tentative standards in effect since 1943. The editor of *USDA* can send you a few more details if you *write* in for No. 2914.

Cotton-insect control

If interested, get from the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine No. E-810, "Early-Season Application of Insecticides on a Community-wide Basis for Cotton-Insect Control in 1950," by K. P. Ewing and C. R. Parencia, Jr., of that Bureau.

Wildfire-resistant tobacco

USDA's Dr. E. E. Clayton has announced new wildfire-resistant lines of burley tobacco. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address at end of last column, last page, as always, and ask for No. 2898.

Christmas trees

Did you know that 28½ million Christmas trees with a retail value of 50 million dollars were marketed in the U. S. during the 1950 holiday season? If you want more details on this business *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2896.

Testing new sugarcanes

If you want information on investigations to determine the milling and processing characteristics of eight or more new sugarcane varieties under development in Louisiana, and which resulted from breeding studies by the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2802.

Ruth Colvin Starrett McGuire

This accomplished cytologist of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, died September 2, after an illness of more than a year. She made many contributions to our knowledge about the anatomy, development of flowers and seed, and the cellular and nuclear structure of sugar plants. Her discoveries on nuclear behavior and the chromosome complement of the cells of sugarcane strains, sorghum, and sugar beets were significant.

Joseph H. Stevenson

When the awards for length of service were made last May, Joseph H. Stevenson of the Office of Information got a 50-year pin. He had then served since 1899, and his career was written up in full in *USDA* for June 5, 1950. Now, a spry 70, he has retired protesting wryly against the unfair regulations which will not permit a Government employee to serve a second 50 years. He was officer-in-charge of illustrations. He completed his initial half century June 8, 1949, and was USDA's oldest employee in length of service, 51½ years.

Control of protein intake by cattle

USDA workers at the Southern Great Plains Field Station, Woodward, Okla., have found that they can closely control the quantity of cottonseed meal cattle eat by regulating the quantity of salt mixed with it. Such self-feeding of the meal saves all the work of hand-feeding and the cattle eat at their leisure more nearly what they need. Here is a method of self-feeding protein concentrates in predetermined quantities. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address at end of last column, back page, and ask for No. 2843.

Better grasslands program

We have a mimeographed 4-page exposition of the program for grasslands improvement upon which State and Federal agricultural workers have embarked. If you want a copy *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2772.

Agricultural History Committee

Dr. James P. Cavin, head, Division of Statistical and Historical Research, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, has been designated deputy chairman of the Department Committee on Agricultural History. The chairman, Dr. O. C. Stine, assistant chief, BAE, is in Japan to advise on the feasibility of establishing an agricultural outlook program.

Consumer education

"Consumer Education Is Essential for Rational Marketing," is a finely organized, well-thought-out, and highly informative talk given by Charles E. Eshbach, who directs the New England Extension Services' Marketing Information Program at Boston, before a USDA Graduate School audience. We thought so well of it that we wrote in for copies. If you are interested in this topic *write* the editor of *USDA* and request a copy by title.

New extension directors

Prof F. Earl Price, a graduate of Oregon State who has been closely associated with Oregon's Cooperative Extension Program for 27 years, has become Oregon's director of extension. Dr. Calvin C. Murray, a graduate of North Carolina State with a master's from University of Georgia, and who has had long experience in teaching, extension, and experiment station work, has become director of extension with the University System of Georgia.

Fair employment

USDA's Fair Employment Program is going well. Executive Order 9980, July 26, 1948, called for this program, and Wesley McCune, executive assistant to the Secretary, became Fair Employment Officer on December 13, 1948. It is the desire of the Secretary to encourage to the maximum a USDA policy of employing and advancing workers on a basis of qualifications and merit. Full cooperation of all agencies in the efforts of the Director of Personnel to examine agency programs and report instances of discrimination will be greatly appreciated.

Peanut harvester

Agricultural engineers of the University of Georgia, the Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station, and the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, have developed an experimental cylinder-type combine that can dig, clean, vine, stem, and bag an acre of peanuts in an hour. It obviates stacking and will also handle windrowed peanuts, combining 2 acres an hour from a 4-row windrow. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address in last column, last page, and request No. 2812.

Do you know?

How many boys and girls belong to 4-H Clubs, and how many come from urban homes? How many farm families did Extension workers reach and teach during 1950? What State featured a Rural Writers' Project last year? How many visitors from foreign countries came to the U. S. last year, under Extension guidance, to learn about American farming? Who sponsors the International Farm Youth Exchange and how is it financed? You can find the answers in Extension Service's well-written annual report, to be published early in 1951.

Locker plants with processing service

If you are interested in some details about freezer-locker plants that offer fruit- and vegetable-processing services, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2822.

Egg support program ends

For more detailed information on the discontinuance of the egg support program as of December 31, 1950, and the reasoning behind the decision, *write* the editor of *USDA* and request No. 2814.

"Federal Safety News"

This is a bimonthly illustrated magazine publication of the Federal Interdepartmental Safety Council. It contains many items of interest to all employees and may be secured by requisition on the Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

"FAO's Program of Work"

We have copies of a statement on the above topic made by Dr. F. T. Wahlen, director of the Agriculture Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Experts say that it is a very fine brief exposition of the work of FAO. If you want a copy *write* the editor of *USDA* and request by title.

"Public Speaking"

So many of you wrote in for copies of the talk on Public Speaking by Ivan D. Wood of SCS, only to be disappointed, that we asked for more copies. Extension Service has very kindly provided them, so if you still want a copy or so, *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address bottom last column, back page, and request it by title.

Wheat

USDA scientists do not recommend the hard red spring wheat strains 1756, 1831, and 1953, which have been offered for sale in the Dakotas, Minnesota, and Montana. For one thing they are not resistant to race 15B of wheat stem rust, against which North American wheat research scientists have recently put into operation a broad cooperative program. For more details on both subjects *write* the editor of *USDA* and request Nos. 2903 and 2904.

How we are judged

An observant Washington newspaper woman found much opposition recently to Federal spending and bureaucrats when touring the Midwest. A bill of particulars was hard to get but the chorus ran "Curb the bureaucrats!" Then people cited the horde of 2 million Government employees, and the fat-salaried executives in "conference" while clerks and secretaries loitered in the snack bar. Or they told what loafing they saw in Government offices once when visiting Washington, or of difficulties experienced by them or others in trying to cut red tape to do business. It is a good idea for you to keep these observations in mind and act accordingly.

Award to Schechter

An Award of Honor was conferred on November 15, 1950, on Milton S. Schechter, Division of Insecticide Investigations, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, by his alma mater, Brooklyn College. The award was in recognition of his fundamental research in the chemistry of insecticides, which has helped to protect this Nation's food supply. Mr. Schechter, in cooperation with Dr. F. B. LaForge and Nathan Green, recently developed the synthesis of pyrethrinlike esters, one of which is now in large-scale commercial production. This contribution is especially important to our Nation's economy at this time because all our supply of pyrethrum must be imported.

Rapid reading; introducing speakers

Our "remnant sale" advertised under "Anybody want these?" on the first page of the November 8 issue went almost too well. Our small supplies were all too quickly exhausted. Unfortunately we have stencils for only two of these items but shall rerun "Some Ideas on Rapid Reading" and "When You Introduce a Speaker." So, if you want copies of these, *write* the editor of *USDA* and request them by name.

Management Policy Committee

Secretary's Memorandum No. 1274, November 28, announced the names of the Management Policy Committee of the USDA Management Program as follows: Assistant Secretary K. T. Hutchinson, chairman, and S. P. Williams of the Office of the Secretary, vice chairman. The members are: B. T. Shaw, ARA, O. V. Wells, BAE; T. Roy Reid, Pers; Ralph S. Roberts, B&F; A. B. Thatcher, P&O; and John A. Baker, Sec; with William S. Harris, Sec, as Committee secretary.

New Grain Branch head

Drexel D. Watson, who has been assistant director of the PMA Commodity Office at Portland, Oreg., has succeeded Leroy K. Smith as Director of PMA's Grain Branch. Mr. Smith resigned September 1 to devote his full time to private farming and business. A native of Kansas, Mr. Watson grew up on Kansas and Oklahoma farms, and attended the University of Oklahoma. He joined the PMA field staff in 1939, in Payette County, Idaho, where he operated a dairy and grain farm. He has been in Portland since 1946.

Crops for the Columbia Basin

Agricultural research by the Washington Agricultural Experiment Station and the USDA is charting the course for settlers who will move into the newly irrigated lands of the Columbia River Basin, the first farm units on a million acres of which, in South Central Washington, will get water from the Grand Coulee dam system in 1952. If you want to know more details on crops that should be grown by these settlers, as outlined by Supt. H. P. Singleton of the Irrigation Experiment Station, Prosser, Wash., *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2871.

Hoblitzelle Award

A Maryland-District of Columbia Regional Committee has been appointed to administer the Hoblitzelle National Award in Agricultural Sciences for this area. Nominations are in order; there is a $5,000 cash prize and a gold medal. The Award is to be made biennially, commencing 1951, through the Karl Hoblitzelle Agricultural Laboratory, Texas Research Foundation, to the person who has made the most important scientific contribution to American agriculture within the preceding 2 years. Dr. H. C. Knoblauch, Office of Experiment Stations, USDA, is committee chairman.

U-kitchen plan

The step-saving U-kitchen, which saves the time and energy of housewives, has now been written up for Research Achievement Sheet 134 (H), by Lenore Sater Thye, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. These sheets can be obtained from the Agricultural Research Administration, USDA. This one gives the entire history of the U-kitchen, those responsible for the work on it, publications regarding it, the cost and value of the project, and the present status of the achievement and its application. Thus, up to October 1949, HNHE had more than 15,000 requests for information about the kitchen from the 48 States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, 4 South American and 6 European countries, while more than 125 builders have asked for the plan.

Ground water drying up?

Unfortunately all copies of our mimeograph, "Is Our Ground Water Drying Up?" have been exhausted. May we suggest, however, that you get Scientific American for November 1950, available at most libraries of any consequence, and read the reassuring article on "Ground Water," by A. N. Sayre of the U. S. Geological Survey.

Molasses market news

Production and Marketing Administration, under provisions of the Research and Marketing Act, has instituted an experimental market news service on cane blackstrap and beet molasses, with headquarters at Baton Rouge, La. No previous data have been collected or distributed by USDA on blackstrap, beet, or edible molasses or sugarcane sirups, except incidentally to other work.

Dr. Allard

H. A. Allard, who retired from the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering in 1946, has idled his time away visiting his son in Latin America and browsing around the Dominican Republic to collect more than 10,000 plant specimens. He has also made collections of plants and insects around Tingo Maria, Peru, where his son is stationed, 6,000 of the former and 5,000 of the latter, many of them new species. In his spare time he has been conducting research with his son on freezing mangoes—all told, a very lazy existence indeed.

Vertical diversification

We are generally familiar with farm diversification, the raising of more crops of more different kinds so as to avoid the income distress to which a single-crop farmer is often reduced. Now D. Howard Doane of the Doane Agricultural Service, Inc., suggests in his new book, "Vertical Farm Diversification," added income from grading, processing, and direct selling by the farmer. The farmer or his family may often have time on their hands which they can put to use carrying their farm operations one or several steps beyond the mere production of raw materials. By thus doing some of the tasks ordinarily left to middlemen or retailers the farmer profits handsomely. For more details see the book, which is priced at $2.75 by the University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Okla. The USDA Library also has a copy.

BUY SAVINGS BONDS

The Secretary asks that you please continue to buy United States Savings Bonds on the payroll plan and he hopes for considerably increased participation in this program. Because of our defense and economic commitments the payroll savings program for bond buying is more important than ever since World War II. Buy bonds and invest in your own future.

January 3, 1951 Vol. X, No. 1

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR JANUARY 17, 1951

Family farm

A VITAL NEW project, the Family Farm Policy Review, has recently been initiated. Under the direction of Under Secretary McCormick, a study is being made of USDA programs to render them more economical and effective in strengthening the family farm for its part in defense mobilization. In the disturbed world of today, with democracy widely threatened by communism, the family farm is a bulwark of democracy. Our Nation built heavily upon the foundation of land ownership and stable land tenure; these are our strong reliance for the increased food and fiber demanded by mobilization.

Hence the USDA is re-evaluating its programs and services in this field in light of the mobilization effort and the world situation. A Family Farm Policy Review Subcommittee has been established representing every USDA agency, with Working Parties to study the programs of each, to preserve and strengthen those which are constructive but to discard the obsolete. The study also will determine what can be done under existing legislation to improve the effectiveness of our essential services to family farmers, and what additional legislation may be required to help USDA contribute with maximum effectiveness and economy to the mobilization of U. S. family farms. The findings of these groups will go to USDA field workers, farm organizations, church groups, and others interested in agriculture. It is hoped that everyone interested in agriculture will get together to discuss the recommendations, because only these local groups can tell USDA what they desire and what they prefer not to have in their agricultural programs. (For further details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 3073; name and address end of last column.)

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Research internships

THE USDA and its Graduate School developed a research-intern plan in 1948, in cooperation with the Land-Grant Colleges and, during the past 2 years, 9 graduate students have held temporary positions in the Department thereunder. The internships are designed to aid graduate students by giving them valuable research experience with pay (mostly GS–7 or about $3,825 a year), simultaneously providing our agencies with outstandingly capable additional personnel on a temporary basis. Research projects undertaken by interns are selected with approval of cooperating colleges and universities for the mutual advantage of the students and the USDA. Thus the program helps build our reserve of experienced scientific manpower. The coming year such positions will be available to 58 graduate students and college faculty members in 6 USDA agencies, calling for full-time work by specially qualified individuals at from $3,100 to $6,400 per year.

About two-thirds of the interns will be appointed to work in the 4 Regional Research Laboratories of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry. But the Bureau of Agricultural Economics offers 10 internships; Farm Credit Administration, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, and Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations have 1 position each in Washington, D. C.; and the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics has 4 internships at Beltsville, Md. Students may obtain detailed information about these internships from their graduate schools. Appointments will be made by USDA agencies from qualified students nominated by accredited colleges and universities. Faculty members will serve as interns for terms not to exceed 120 days. Nominations should be submitted to the Director of Personnel, USDA, not later than February 1, 1951, for internships mostly effective July 1.

For superior work

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment and Certificates of Merit were recently awarded employees, as indicated below:

Farmers Home Administration—FRANCES W. DICKENS, clerk-typist (county-office clerk), Leake County, Miss.; LEROY T. MILBOURN, clerk (farm ownership and property insurance clerk), Albuquerque, N. Mex.

Forest Service—CONRAD W. CARLSON, forester, Glidden, Wis.; LEWIS R. GROSENBAUGH, forester, New Orleans, La.; JOHN O. PRICE, equipment operator, Custer National Forest (Billings, Mont.); HORACE F. RALPH, surveying and cartographic engineer (supervisor), Ogden, Utah; ADOLPHUS H. ROBERTS, clerk, Rolla, Mo.

Production and Marketing Administration—LLOYD N. JOHNSON, investigator, San Francisco, Calif.; MARIE TOWNSELL, administrative assistant, Kansas City, Mo.

Soil Conservation Service—GEORGE B. BANKS, soil conservation aid, Lewiston, Idaho; WILLIAM E. DICKERSON, Jr., soil conservationist, Stuart, Va.; MEYER FRANK, cartographic engineer, Spartanburg, S. C.; GEORGIA Z. MCAFEE, engineering aid, Corning, Calif.; HARRY F. OMAN, agricultural aid, Aberdeen, Idaho.

Gray, revised

BOTANISTS are patient, meticulous, discriminating, studious, critical. They know the differences indicated by such formidable words as tomentose, tomentulose, hispit, hispidulous, hirsute, hirsutulous, hairy, spiny, and prickly. They indulge in dignified hair-splitting. Now, at long last, the American Book Co., has issued for them the first revision of Gray's Manual of Botany in 42 years. This light bedside reading is priced at $9.50, and is a handbook of the flowering plants and ferns of the central and northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. A stream of refined terms is the lifeblood of such a manual.

In a review of the work soon to appear Dr. S. F. Blake of Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., says: "Few botanical works published in recent years have been so eagerly awaited . . . It is based on a vastly wider field acquaintance with the plants occurring in its range and a very much more intensive study of herbarium material than any of its predecessors." That range has now been extended northward to embrace Newfoundland and Anticosti, an island in the St. Lawrence estuary, and westward along the forty-ninth parallel in Quebec and Ontario to the northwestern corner of Minnesota—the western boundary of that State and Iowa to the southern edge of Kansas, and eastward along the southern boundaries of Missouri, Kentucky, and Virginia to the sea. The book was revised by Professor Fernald of Harvard who died shortly before it left the press.

Crafts succeeds Marsh

RAYMOND E. MARSH, assistant chief of Forest Service, has retired after 40 years of service which began with timber surveys in the West in 1910–12. A graduate of Dartmouth with a master's from Yale, he rose rapidly in FS, becoming assistant regional forester for the Southwestern Region, headquarters in Albuquerque, in August 1919. He came to Washington in June 1926 to head the Division of Forest Economics and, in August 1936, assumed his position as assistant chief, FS. He is nationally known for his contributions to forest research and land use planning. The Division does research on forest taxation, credit and insurance, foreign forestry, forest-ownership problems, forest co-ops, the marketing and distribution of forest products, and related problems.

Edward C. Crafts, who succeeds Mr. Marsh, has been chief of this Division since August 1945. As such, he supervised a Nation-wide Forest Survey comprising a State-by-State inventory of standing timber and an estimate of timber consumption and requirements. A native of Chicago, he took his Ph. D. at University of Michigan and has been in FS since April 1, 1934, first conducting field studies on land use, employment, range utilization, and requirements for forest products and, during World War II, preparing lumber-production reports for the War Production Board.

Millions in fungi

MUSHROOMS are the basis for a 60-million-pound annual business in this country. They are higher in riboflavin content that any other plant, except yeast, and the principal variety used in commercial production appeared 20 years ago as a sport, a single clump of white growing in a bed of cream mushrooms. Dr. E. B. Lambert of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, says that growers now get yields twice as big as they did in the 1920's because of better disease control, improved varieties, and more effective methods of pasteurizing the compost—stable manure from race tracks—after it is put on the shelves of the propagating beds. There is considerable promise of still further increased yields.

These will come from a persistent search for new strains and endeavors to breed up the variety now most used. Gypsum is added to the compost to impart a mellow texture and a pasteurizing process has been developed that conditions it so as to make possible the growth of mushrooms with minimum interference from molds, nematodes, and insects. Substitutes for the compost have been developed here and in England that are suitable for commercial mushroom growing, but they will for a long time replace but little of the manure now supplied by racing stables.

Cash awards

THE FOLLOWING individuals have received cash awards for adopted suggestions during the period of October 1 through November 30. (Detailed information concerning the suggestions may be secured from the Bureau Efficiency Awards Committee):

Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry—DAVID N. COLLINS, Olustee, Fla., $15; MARION L. FOLEY, Albany, Calif., $10.

Farmers Home Administration—ELIZABETH R. BLACKMON, Montgomery, Ala., $10; GEORGE C. BROWN, Brookhaven, Miss., $10; M. TLE BUNCH, Oklahoma City, Okla., $20; JAMES F. FARMER, Dallas, Tex., $150; RAFAEL GIMENEZ, San Juan, P. R., $20; HAROLD J. LARSON, Woonsocket, S. Dak., $10; C. C. POLLOCK and M. L. NORTHCUTT, Indianapolis, Ind., joint award, $300; GLENN R. SANDERFORD, GEORGE W. EVANS, and GEORGE E. STOLEBARGER, Dallas, Tex., joint award, $150; CAROLINE C. SMALLING, Washington, D. C., $10; JOSEPH L. TRIHEY, Columbia, S. C., $10; HUBERT F. WORLEY, Jackson, Miss., $25.

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation—FREDERICK C. GRALL, Chicago, Ill., $10.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations—CHARLES H. BARBER, Washington, D. C., $10.

Forest Service—MURRAY R. BUTLER, Ely, Nev., $25; JOE E. EISWERTH, Monument, Colo., $45; FRANK C. STONE, Salt Lake City, Utah, $25.

Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics—MARY T. SWICKARD, Washington, D. C., $10.

Production and Marketing Administration—MARVIN A. ANDERSON, Minneapolis, Minn., $25; MAURICE M. DIAMOND, Minneapolis, Minn., $25; EMBY T. KISSANE, Chicago, Ill., 2 separate awards of $10 each; ETHEL P. KNOX, San Francisco, Calif., $10; THEODORE C. MUNSON, San Francisco, Calif., $15; MABEL E. SNYDER and ROSEMARIE RUISINGER, Columbus, Ohio, joint award, $20.

Rural Electrification Administration—JOHN F. ATKINSON, Washington, D. C., $10; L. FRANKLIN JONES, Jacksonville, Fla., $20; A. STEPHEN LALLY, Washington, D. C., $10 and $45 for 2 suggestions; ELANOR S. SILBERMAN, Washington, D. C., $20.

And/or

Every now and then protests crop up about the abuse of language shown above. Sometimes in legal papers "and/or" is used correctly to indicate that "and" and "or" are interchangeable, and there is also a correct mathematical use of the disputed expression. But, as the New England Journal of Medicine said recently: "And/or is a triumph of superfluous brevity, ingenious in its very awkwardness; clumsily clever in the way that it avoids the obvious, correct, and clear 'or both' . . . Bad writing serves no useful purpose that cannot be served better by good writing; the continued appearance of the leapfrog conjunction can be attributed only to carelessness and/or ignorance." (Correction—"carelessness, or ignorance, or both.")

Brief but important

Social Security Act

Office of Personnel, USDA, Advance No. 229, tells about the effect of the Social Security Act, as amended; ask your personnel officer about this.

Ray E. Dickson

A Ray E. Dickson Memorial Fund has been established by his friends to honor the late superintendent of the Texas agricultural substation at Spur, who died June 26 last. The fund will be held in trust by Texas A&M.

Research policy group meets

The Agricultural Research Policy Committee held its regular quarterly meeting in Washington, D. C., December 7 and 8; for more details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2953.

Spanish citrus industry

There is available from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations (5918S, Ext. 2445, or write) "A Study of the Citrus Industry in Spain", Foreign Agriculture Report No. 56, prepared by J. Henry Burke, marketing specialist in FAR.

Tire-lug height and performance

USDA agricultural engineers at the Tillage Machinery Laboratory, Auburn, Ala., have demonstrated that tire-lug height makes appreciable differences in the performance of farm tractors, though rim width has little effect. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address at end of last column, last page, and ask for No. 2943.

Teaching farmer cooperation

"Guide for Teaching Farmer Cooperation", by John H. Heckman, is Circular E–34 from Farm Credit Administration, dated May 1950. It has been prepared especially for vocational agricultural teachers and veterans' instructors. Procure copies from FCA's Information and Extension Division, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

Montana forests

The first comprehensive State-wide survey of Montana's forests has been made and shows that it ranks fifth in the Nation in forest resources. The 48-page report entitled "Montana Forest Resources and Industry Statistics", by P. D. Kemp and M. B. Dickerman, may be secured from the Northern Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Missoula, Mont. There is also available a separate report on the forest resources of south central Montana.

Milk byproducts

"Byproducts From Milk," is a new 325-page book, priced at $6, by Earle O. Whittier and Byron H. Webb of the Bureau of Dairy Industry, published by Reinhold Publishing Corp., 330 West Forty-second Street, New York City 18. It is the first comprehensive book detailing the physical and chemical characteristics of skim milk, whey, buttermilk, and their components, and giving methods for converting these into both food and nonfood products. The bibliography is outstanding and the chapter on bakery products is unique. The book should be invaluable to dairy-product manufacturers, food and nutrition research workers, process supervisors, and students of dairy science and technology.

Interior's FAR

The Department of the Interior has set up a new Division of International Activities to perform somewhat the functions for it that our Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations does for us.

Dr. Mott

Dr. F. D. Mott, formerly with Farmers Home Administration, and now acting deputy minister of public health for Saskatchewan, was recently elected to serve a 3-year term as a member of the governing council of the American Public Health Association.

Dr. O'Rear retired

Dr. H. M. O'Rear, inspector in charge of brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication in the State of Pennsylvania, has retired after serving the Bureau of Animal Industry for more than 35 years. Before being stationed in Harrisburg he served in the same capacity for the State of California at Sacramento.

From FCA

C. G. Shull, former president of the Federal Land Bank at Wichita, Kans., passed away November 14 at Paris, Tex. He retired in May 1948, and had served with Farm Credit Administration since 1933. * * * T. R. Shepherd, land bank appraiser of Emporia, Kans., retired October 31 after 17 years of service with FCA.

David Meeker

David Meeker, who was prominent in the War Food Administration, and who has been educational director with Dearborn Motors since 1947, has become Pacific Coast sales manager for the same concern. He was a county agent for a decade, and later a county agent supervisor, after graduating from the University of Missouri.

Halogeton

Halogeton (pronounced halogeeton) is a stock-poisoning plant reeking with oxalic acid that imperils livestock on the rangelands of six western States. In *USDA* for May 27, 1946, we indicted this rapidly spreading plant. If you want to know more about it and what science can do to prevent its spread, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 3045.

Registered DHIA cows

Dr. J. F. Kendrick, in charge of the Division of Dairy-Herd-Improvement Investigations, Bureau of Dairy Industry, says that approximately 37 percent of the cows now enrolled in the DHI Associations are registered, and he attributes recent rapid increases in registration largely to artificial insemination. If you want details on this by States, and by breeds and numbers of cows, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2974.

That fine glassware

Possibly you came into possession of some fine glassware during the holidays—or possibly you already have some and would be interested in a few hints from USDA household equipment specialists on how to keep it intact, and prevent it from undergoing too many hard knocks. If so *write* in to the editor of *USDA* for a one-page mimeographed item called "Care of Glassware." We snitched it from Helen C. Douglass' ever-excellent Food and Home Notes, sent by USDA Press Service to a lot of editors and extension workers, but not available to employees.

It has been said—

You are as little as the things that annoy you.

Retire on the farm?

"Why Not Retire on the Farm?" is an interesting and helpful circular by L. G. Sorden of Wisconsin's Extension Service. If you want a copy *write* the editor of *USDA* and request it by title.

Asian tobacco study

George W. Van Dyne of Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations is conducting a Research and Marketing Act study of the production and marketing of tobacco and its products in India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Hong Kong, and the Philippine Islands. He returns to the U. S. in June, after which the results of the study will be published.

Dr. D. F. Jones honored

Dr. Donald F. Jones, distinguished chief geneticist at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, whose development of the double-cross method of hybrid-corn-seed production has added billions to the worth of the U. S. corn crop, was chosen by the American Agricultural Editors Association as recipient for its 1950 Distinguished Service Award.

Even Colorado Aggie has age

We have noted the advanced age of several State colleges. Now an alarmed alumnus, Louis G. Davis of Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine in Denver, writes in to remind us that Colorado A&M began its own eightieth year this year, while the State of Colorado will be a mere 75 in 1951. Excusit, please, Colorado; we just never thought of you as an octogenarian.

Listen, you consumers!

Agriculture Information Bulletin No. 19, is "Consumer Preferences Regarding Apples and Winter Pears;" prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, it reports a Research and Marketing Act project completed recently. Get it as you do other printed publications, as often explained in *USDA*. Absorb it, and you will know more about apples than Adam did after Eve got through with him, and something about winter pears besides.

Tragedy in El Salvador

Even farm extension work may demand heroic sacrifices. Word has come from the cooperative station in El Salvador, the Centro National de Agronomía, that Francisco Vázquez, its young extension agent for the Department of Chalatenango, drowned recently in a swollen river while on his way to answer a farmer's call. "Chico" Vázquez was Centro's first extension agent, though six others have since been added. He earned consistent praise during the months he served his farmer countrymen and already Chalatenango feels his loss and is searching for someone to replace him.

Dried fruit exports

Dr. H. R. Wellman, director of the Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics, University of California, has just completed a Research and Marketing Act study sponsored by FAR on the prospect for enlarging dried-fruit exports to Europe. In brief, the prospect is not bright. Reports on the United Kingdom and Sweden are Foreign Agriculture Circulars FDF-2-50 and FDF-10-50, respectively; reports on the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, and France will soon be released. Get the reports from Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.; or phone Ext. 2445.

Dr. Cardon reviews for FAO

On November 14, Agricultural Research Administrator P. V. Cardon made a statement before the eleventh session of the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization. It constituted a very clear analysis of the functions and responsibilities under FAO's technical program.

The family farm

"Strengthening the Family Farm", the address Under Secretary McCormick made at the annual meeting of PMA in Chicago, is an earthy talk by a real dirt farmer drawing on his own personal experience. The less you know about farmers and farming the more you need to read it. If you want a copy, *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address at end of last column, last page, and ask for No. 2979.

New cotton sampler

A new mechanical automatic cotton sampler that collects lint during ginning, and packages a cross section of the bale into a true sample, has been developed at Production and Marketing Administration's cotton laboratory in Stoneville, Miss. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address in last column on last page, as always, and ask for No. 2976.

George E. Powell

Mr. Powell, who was chief of the Program Analysis and Commodity Division, Tobacco Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, died December 6, aged 40. A graduate of Georgia Institute of Technology, he joined the AAA field force in 1934, coming to Washington the following year and, in October 1944, went to Commodity Credit Corporation as a marketing specialist. He was assigned to his position in the Tobacco Branch during August 1948.

The agricultural engineers

Glenn A. Cumings, a USDA agricultural engineer, recently called attention to the fact that the increasing use of fertilizers in various forms had transformed our fertilizer equipment into the most diversified type of farm machinery on the market; if you want a digest of his talk, ask for No. 3021. Similarly I. F. Reed and J. W. Shields reported on the difference in pulling power between air-filled and liquid-filled tractor tires when used on sand and loam; if you want more details on this report ask for No. 3022. *Write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address at end of the last column.

That sylphlike figure

J. M. Eleazer of Clemson (S. C.) Extension Service, reported recently that he lost 20 pounds by no longer nibbling candy when he read at night—he now nibbles carrots—and by refusing the second helping of other fattening things. This non-candy-eating editor got rid of about 26 pounds by a similar easy method: Quit using sugar and cream in his eight daily cups of coffee, cut his bread ration to about a third, and avoided second helpings. Of course, you go through an agonizing period of acute hunger for several days—maybe 2 or 3 weeks even—but chew on those rye crackers that taste like pasteboard, or Pascal celery—very filling and nonnutritious—lean meat or cheese in moderation, or even carrots and, in time, the stomach actually does adjust and you no longer crave the things that made you carry excess weight.

Dairy research programs

If you are interested in the research and service program recommended by the Dairy Advisory Committee for projects under the Research and Marketing Act, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 3037.

Family-type farm loans

If you are interested in what Farmers Home Administration loans are doing to strengthen and enrich our agricultural resources by lending support to the operators of family-type farms, *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address bottom last column, last page, and ask for No. 3034.

Cut shipping costs on lettuce

Preliminary results of a Research and Marketing Act project the Marketing Facilities Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, is carrying on through contract with the Western Growers Association, show that shippers may realize substantial savings by using less container ice in packing western-grown lettuce. For details *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address end last column, last page, as always, and ask for No. 2989.

Publications noticed

"Control of Nonsubterranean Termites" is the name of Farmer's Bulletin No. 2018; it is by Thomas E. Snyder of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, and was issued September 1950. * * * "Nutrition up to date—up to you" is the title of Separate 1, reprinted from Home and Garden Bulletin No. 1, "Family Fare." It briefs the science of nutrition to date, gives information on the servings of meats to the pound, sound food planning, smart buying, and wise storing, and was prepared by specialists in the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics.

Hay mulch aids apple trees

C. P. Harley, H. H. Moon, and L. O. Regeimbal of USDA report that mulching with high-nitrogen hay effected outstanding improvements in 18-year-old apple trees at Beltsville, Md. They used 100 pounds of air-dry hay per tree—made from orchard grass fertilized during growth with 300 pounds of ammonium nitrate per acre—applied in June, followed by 200 pounds of the hay the next year. The trees became outstandingly vigorous and productive, and were easily marked in the orchard by their luxuriant dark-green foliage, increased growth, and heavy fruit set. The bright red color of the apples was unaffected. Further work is in progress.

Judge Hulbert

"Judge" Lyman S. Hulbert, to give him the title by which he has long been known, has left his farm credit work in the Office of the Solicitor to return to private practice. He was appointed to a position there in 1921, later became assistant general counsel for Farm Credit Administration, then returned to Sol in 1939, when FCA became part of USDA. He is the author of FCA Bulletin No. 50, a revision of his USDA publication of the same title, "Legal Phases of Cooperative Associations," published in 1922. He also wrote extensively on cooperatives. He has for many years been regarded as one of the foremost authorities on cooperative law. As one co-op lawyer said recently: "Every young lawyer that goes to work for a co-op and wants to get ahead, first visits the 'Judge' to talk things over. Then he comes home and studies his book, Bulletin 50, and his summaries of co-op legal cases."

Apple bruising and grading

Working together, scientists of the USDA and Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station have found that the bruising of apples can be reduced 60 to 70 percent as compared with normal hand-dumping, provided a dependable mechanical crate-dumper developed for use in commercial fruit-packing plants is used. They have also shown that the use of an experimental field grader they developed both reduces fruit bruising and cuts grading costs. If you want more details on these projects *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for Nos. 2942 and 2945.

"Tobacco and Sugar"

Dr. Francis Joseph Weiss, formerly a USDA employee, but for 5 years now special research consultant of the Sugar Research Foundation, Inc., is author of a new and fascinating study on the above subject. So far as is known this well-documented monograph constitutes the first investigation of this kind. It covers the occurrence and transformation of natural sugars in tobacco leaves, the use of added sugar in the manufacture of tobacco products, and includes statistics on the utilization of sugar by the tobacco industry, as well as interesting and valuable historical and related scientific information. The documentation is very complete. The monograph has met with the enthusiastic commendation of experts in this field and you may get a copy gratis by writing the Sugar Research Foundation, 52 Wall St., New York City 5.

USDA Clubs

If you ever wandered out into the field, a solitary visitor from Washington, D. C., you learned to appreciate USDA Clubs. They tend to unify our employees, to inform them about what those in other agencies do, to induce them to prepare helpful directories of all agencies for their cities. They are of immense value also in better serving the public. No inquirer likes to call in person, or telephone, and be misdirected several times before he chances into the right place. There should be many more USDA Clubs than there are. To this end may we recommend that you read "What You Should Know About USDA Clubs" by E. R. Draheim and Lu Gibbons of USDA's Office of Personnel—then go out and help form a club! To get your copy of this helpful article *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address at end of last column, last page, as usual, and ask for it by title.

"Rural Health Cooperatives"

This is the title of a new 93-page, illustrated publication on the organization and operation of rural health co-ops, reporting a joint study by Farm Credit Administration and Public Health Service, and prepared by Helen L. Johnston. It specifically discusses the experience of 48 of the 101 such co-ops of record up to the middle of 1949, most of which were formed in the States west of the Mississippi, half of them in Texas, and nearly all in places of 2,500 or less. Such co-ops exist in 21 States and suggestions are offered groups planning to improve existing or to organize new co-ops. If you want to know details of how the problem of financing health service centers and hospitals was attacked, how staffs were obtained, buildings erected, membership enlisted, and local support gained, write Farm Credit Administration, USDA, Washington 25 D. C., for a copy of FCA Bulletin 60. (This is Public Health Service Bulletin 308.)

Farm real estate market

While "Current Developments in the Farm Real Estate Market", as approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, is already out, some of you might be interested in the mimeographed text of this report. If so, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2987.

Lexen comes to Washington

Bert T. Lexen, a native of Michigan and a graduate of Michigan University, who has for 11 years been in charge of forest management research for 3 States, with headquarters at the Rocky Mountain Forest Experiment Station, Ft. Collins, Colo., has come to Washington to be assistant chief of Forest Service's Division of Forest Management Research.

"Interesting people"

Miss Dolores Tourangeau, formerly (alas) of Production and Marketing Administration who was immortalized in *USDA* for August 30, under the title "She makes potatoes," was featured among "Interesting People" in the American Magazine for December, page 62, under the title "She knows her apples." Her successor is Miss Edith White, also a former student at Corcoran.

Weed-control equipment

If interested in this subject, you might like a mimeographed sheet we have on research by Russell E. Larson, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, in cooperation with the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station. The effectiveness of sprayer pumps and nozzles, the corrosiveness of herbicides, and flame weed control were under test. For a brief account of the findings *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2939.

Danger!

Increasing farm costs spell danger. While farmers now make more money in good times than they did 40 years ago, they could lose their farms much faster in bad times. Studies of the same farms in 1907 and in 1947 tend to demonstrate this. These have been cited by Governor Duggan of Farm Credit Administration in a number of speeches. If you want the details, *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address at end of last column as always, and ask for a two-paged mimeograph—"Increasing Farm Costs Hold Dangers."

USDA lends a hand

At the request of the Atomic Energy Commission, all USDA agencies in the two South Carolina counties in which the Savannah River Project of AEC is to be constructed, as well as in adjoining counties, are making their facilities fully available to assist farmers who must move from this large area to find locations of their own choosing in surrounding localities. Amos H. Ward, of Farmers Home Administration, is assisting the Office of the Secretary to coordinate these activities.

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USDA
Employee News Bulletin

FOR JANUARY 31, 1951

Good crops in '50

THE CROPS WERE good in 1950. That's the gist of the end-of-the-year crop summaries issued by the Crop Reporting Board, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. They reveal that crop production in 1950 was the third largest of record. This output by the Nation's farms exceeds the average of the previous 8 years—the most productive period in American agriculture. It was accomplished despite the smallest harvested acreage of our principal crops since 1942, and a growing season that was unfavorable for many crops. Over 158 million tons of our eight principal grains were harvested in 1950. Food grains make up nearly 33.5 million tons, with the wheat crop of a little more than a billion bushels nearly up to average. Feed-grain production was third largest, and includes a corn crop of slightly more than 3 billion bushels.

Production of truck crops for fresh market was equally impressive. The summaries reveal that more than 9 million tons of the 25 truck crops produced for fresh market were harvested in 1950. That's 8 percent more than in 1949, and nearly a fifth more than the 1939–48 average. The 11 truck crops produced for processing in 1950 were estimated to total about 5.3 million tons. This is nearly 3 percent less than the 1949 production, but 2 percent more than the average of 5.18 million tons for the preceding 10 years.

ATTENTION STENO'S!

The Department of Agriculture needs stenographers (grades GS–2, 3, and 4) to fill vacancies in the Washington area. Status is a "must" for GS–4 positions only. Applicants in all three grades will be given the USDA's noncompetitive qualifying examination, which may be taken either in the central or field offices. Write Parke G. Haynes, chief, Division of Employment, USDA, Washington 25, D. C., or apply Room 302–W, USDA.

924267—51

Rohwer for defense

DR. S. A. ROHWER, Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine for regulatory activities, has been appointed Special Assistant for Defense in Agricultural Research Administration. Dr. Rohwer is a native of Colorado and attended the University of Colorado, which honored him with a Doctor of Science degree in 1948. He entered USDA in 1909, as a research entomologist, and became, successively, business manager of the Bureau of Entomology, Assistant Chief of the Plant Quarantine and Control Administration (1928) and, 3 years later, of the Bureau of Entomology, continuing after the merger into EPQ, in 1934. His outstanding services in World War II brought him a Superior Service Award.

In his new position Dr. Rohwer will be the Agricultural Research Administrator's representative in relationships with Production and Marketing Administration under the Defense Production Act, and in activities coming within the purview of the National Security Resources Board. He will also be ARA's liaison officer with the Federal Civil Defense Administration, and the Munitions Board and the Research and Development Board of the Department of Defense. ARA will be extensively involved in protecting the National against biological warfare on crops and livestock. Dr. Rohwer's responsibilities will deal primarily with broad relationships, policy development or modification for defense purposes, and integration and coordination of program planning with approval of the Administrator of ARA.

USDA WHEN YOU RETIRE

You may continue to get *USDA*, the Employee News Bulletin, after you retire, *if you write in to the editor*—name and address at end of the last column—and request that it be sent you regularly.

This USDA of ours

USDA TELEPHONE operators handled 3,445,831 telephone calls the past fiscal year. Although 21 employees would have been required to meet telephone company's standards, 162,162 calls per operator per year, our 19 employees did the job. Chalk them up as highly efficient. Then please note this: Whereas our *incoming* mail totaled 15,315,237 pieces, our *outgoing* mail totaled only 9,107,316 pieces—and if you ever hear USDA criticized for flooding the country with mail, throw that statistic deftly at the traducer! (In answer to your whispered query, some mail is answered by telegram or by phone, much requires no answer, and there is always a flood of incoming publications, periodicals, and advertising matter.)

Last fiscal year USDA occupied 1,527,986 square feet in Federal buildings in the District of Columbia, where it also rented 32,756 square feet. Outside the District—for USDA is already highly decentralized—it occupied 1,677,562 square feet in buildings operated by its own agencies, 2,399,840 in buildings operated by other Government agencies, and rented 5,624,773 square feet, in addition. During its 87-year existence the USDA has created or received over 3 million linear feet of records, and these continue to accrue at a rate of about 175,000 linear feet annually, enough to fill 22,000 four-drawer file cabinets. If permitted to accumulate Nation-wide, they would fill the entire South Building in 8 years. During the past year, 197,536 linear feet of records were disposed of as waste paper.

These are a few choice selections from the annual report of Arthur B. Thatcher who heads our USDA Office of Plant and Operations. It is a record well worth perusal, as you can see signs of efficiency, economy, and the skilled performance of mass operations on every page of it. This Office prepares the annual budget and maintains the records of the Office of the Secretary. It allocates the floor space occupied by USDA in Washington and the field. It operates our big photographic laboratory, our duplicating plant, and our telephone, telegraph, and postal services. It also aids in developing policies and solving problems incidental to the selection, acquisition, operation, maintenance, and repair of our laboratory, scientific, optical, automotive, and other mechanical equipment.

Some 35 years ago

AN ERA in the history of the USDA definitely ended when Secretary "Tama" Jim Wilson left office and was succeeded, March 6, 1913, by an educator, statesman, economist, and financier, David F. Houston, who served until February 1, 1920, when he resigned to become Secretary of the Treasury. Both appointments were by President Wilson and Mr. Houston was our World War I Secretary of Agriculture. He ushered in a period when far more USDA attention than ever before was devoted to the broad credit, social, and economic problems facing agriculture, again in response to great public agitation.

In his Annual Report for 1913 Secretary Houston wrote: "We have unmistakably reached the period when we must think and plan." Agriculture must be better fitted into the Nation's economy as a whole. Among the achievements of his administration were: A considerable increase in agricultural appropriations; the development of information and staff work generally; the establishment of the Extension Service, the Bureau of Crop Estimates, and the Office of Markets and Rural Organization; a fundamental reorganization of the Department to facilitate more efficient functioning; and passage and approval of the Cotton Future, Grain Standards, Warehouse, Farm Loan, and Federal Aid Road Acts. Establishment of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics after Houston resigned grew out of preparatory work while he held office.

By 1917 the USDA consisted of the Bureaus of Animal Industry, Plant Industry, Chemistry, Soils, Entomology, Biological Survey, and Crop Estimates; the Weather Bureau, Forest Service, Division of Publications, and Office of Public Roads and Rural Engineering; and the Insecticide and Fungicide and the Federal Horticultural Boards. The staff agencies were: Secretary's Office, Solicitor's Office, Disbursing Office, Library, Chief Clerk's Office, Medical Superintendent's Office, and Offices of Information, Inspection, Exhibits, Forest Appeals, and Farm Management, and the States Relations Service. The last comprised Extension Service, Office of Home Economics, and Office of Experiment Stations.

World War I obviously interrupted the scientific planning the Secretary intended to institute for American agriculture. But the USDA acquired enhanced prestige among many groups and associations which thought more and more in terms of the services it could render. Its leadership in its field during World War I was also generally recognized. The initial tremendous expansion in Extension Service occurred during and as an integral part of the war effort. When Secretary Houston left office after the war, we had record farm production and exports, but huge wartime expansion brought a host of new problems in train. Land that belonged in grass had been opened to cultivation, farm tenancy was on the increase, land prices were inflated, and a broad new study of rural problems was required.

FCA loan funds

ON DAYS WHEN securities are offered for sale by Farm Credit Administration institutions, their fiscal agent, Macdonald G. Newcomb, 31 Nassau Street, New York City, receives hundreds of telephone calls and wires bringing orders from investors for millions of dollars. Sales of these securities totaled nearly a billion dollars in 1950. The money received forms the principal part of the funds used by FCA institutions and associations in making loans to farmers and farmers' cooperatives.

Each month the Federal intermediate credit banks offer debentures ranging in amount from 40 to 80 million dollars. Unmatured credit bank debentures outstanding on January 2, 1950, totaled $516,080,000. Public offerings of bonds by the Federal land banks are made less frequently as money is needed to finance long-term farm loans made through national farm loan associations. On January 2, land bank bonds in the hands of investors amounted to $714,842,000. In 1950, the Central Bank for Cooperatives first used its authority to issue debentures. It sold 30 million of 3-year, 1⅝-percent, collateralized debentures at par; this offering was very favorably received in the market.

None of the securities issued by FCA institutions is guaranteed either as to principal or interest by the United States Government. Mortgages on farm land are the principal collateral for land bank bonds and farmers' notes evidencing loans by production credit associations and other financing institutions, and notes of cooperative associations for credit bank debentures. Notes evidencing loans to farmers' marketing and purchasing cooperatives are the principal security for central bank debentures. The Washington office of the FCA collaborates with the fiscal agent's office in all security offerings and in the purchase and sale of Government bonds for FCA institutions.

Agricultural attachés

MORE THAN 60 highly trained specialists strategically stationed at American diplomatic posts abroad enable the USDA to keep its finger on world agricultural developments at all times. These specialists—the agricultural attachés and officers of the U. S. Foreign Service—are our foreign eyes and ears. They regularly transmit from over the world a flood of current data regarding crop and livestock prospects, international trade in farm products, and other agricultural matters. Their information is supplemented by reports from many American consular officers, USDA commodity specialists abroad, foreign government officials, and other sources.

The Department receives about 47,000 cablegrams and dispatches a year from American diplomatic posts. When analyzed and interpreted by experts in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, these reports furnish innumerable facts needed by American farmers in planning their production, and by American handlers and marketers of farm products in their daily operations. They also are useful in preparation of FAR's annual World Food Situation and Outlook Report, and in answering inquiries from Congress, the National Defense establishment, ECA, State Department, Technical Cooperation Administration (Point IV), the Interdepartment Trade Agreements Committee, and other Government sources.

The attachés and other agricultural officers report on such specific matters as crop and livestock conditions and prospective acreages; trends in marketing, consumption, purchasing power, and prices; agricultural policies in other countries affecting American foreign farm markets; and foreign supplies of seed, fertilizer, farm labor, and equipment. These diplomatic representatives of American agriculture are economists with sufficient agricultural background to interpret the American farmer to the world as well as serve as fact-gatherers. Many of them have had long careers here in USDA before going abroad.

Himebaugh ill

Keith Himebaugh, Director of Information for USDA, suffered a heart attack on January 6, at his country home near Sandy Spring, Md. He has responded satisfactorily to treatment, but will not get back to his job for quite a while, then must go slowly. He reports discovering in the hospital that a dog-lover is a dog in love with another dog! Obviously his sense of humor is unimpaired.

Scientists in Government

A SPECIAL STUDY has been made of 695 scientists and engineers in grades P–1 to P–8 who voluntarily left their jobs in Government laboratories in 1948, and of whom 335 responded to questionnaires. The Maxwell Graduate School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, has published the results as volume 1, "Attitudes of Scientists and Engineers About Their Government Employment." Approximately 36 percent did not leave Government but transferred therein; slightly more than 34 percent went to private industry; 23.6 percent returned to universities for further study; and 6 percent left Government because of poor health and other incidental reasons. Those who remained in Government did so to gain security, desirable leave and retirement benefits, and the opportunity to do interesting and important work, with freedom of action in research, and good facilities and equipment. Private industry was held by those who entered it to offer better compensation and opportunity for advancement, as well as good equipment, desirable working conditions, interesting work, and competent supervisors.

Most left Government for economic advancement. Others disliked the location of their work, lacked opportunity to do anything important or challenging, cited incompetent coworkers or supervisors, or left to return to school. They had usually entered Government convinced it offered interesting, important, and challenging work, though some did so because it offered the only or the best available work at the time. Eighty percent said Government work was satisfactory or more, and that their experience lived up to their expectations. They thought also it offered opportunity for experience and advancement. Many expressed dissatisfaction with the administrative or housekeeping functions in Government, with the supervisors or the type of work being done, or with Government inertia, the nature of work assignments and, in particular, inferior personnel administration, procurement, shop, and supply services. The majority found their supervisors and coworkers to be satisfactory. For more details see the report itself.

Nutrition publication

Issued in connection with the periodical, "Nutrition Reviews," there is a printed monthly two-page circular called "Current Research in the Science of Nutrition." It largely digests material in "Nutrition Reviews," and is free. To get on the mailing list address The Nutrition Foundation, Inc., Chrysler Building, New York City 17.

Extension summer schools

REGIONAL summer schools will be held for extension workers as given in the list below, showing the times, the institutions, and the persons to whom to write for detailed information. All the schools will feature courses to train extension workers in the principles and techniques of extension information and teaching. In addition, each regional school will feature a specialized course given by it alone. The lists follow:

NORTHEAST REGION, Cornell, July 9–27, L. D. Kelsey, Roberts Hall, Cornell, Ithaca, N. Y.; CENTRAL REGION, University of Wisconsin, June 11–29, V. E. Kivlin, College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin, Madison 6, Wis.; WESTERN REGION, Colorado A & M, two terms, June 18–July 6 and July 16–August 3, Director of Extension F. A. Anderson, Colorado A & M, Fort Collins, Colo.; SOUTHERN REGION, University of Arkansas, July 30–August 17, Dean Lippert S. Ellis, College of Agriculture, Fayetteville, Ark.; REGIONAL NEGRO SCHOOL, Prairie View A & M, Prairie View, Tex., tentative date, June 4–22, Director of Extension G. G. Gibson, Texas A & M, College Station, Tex. There will be SPECIALIZED COURSES in extension publications, at University of Wisconsin; in consumer education, at Colorado A & M, during the second term; in the supervision of extension work, at Cornell; and in methods of doing extension work in nutrition (workshop) at University of Arkansas.

Literary property

IN HIS NEW book, "Literary Property in the United States," Ralph R. Shaw, USDA's Librarian, has performed a much needed task. For, as he says, "Literary property is a confused and controversial field." Anyone who has published a few books, particularly if these are of a controversial or exposé nature, quickly discovers that few publishers, and even few publisher's lawyers, understand copyright law as interpreted by court decisions. This is particularly evident in the matter of quoting material from popular songs, books, and such, for purposes of criticism or other "fair use."

Shaw has gone deeply into the subject. His scholarly book is well indexed and is fortified by no less than 269 legal and other citations. Of particular interest and accuracy are his observations on fair use, the other rights of users, materials in the public domain, when copying is really "copying," infringement, and common sense about literary property. He has performed an extremely useful and valuable service in a field too little entered perhaps because of its complexity. This 277-page book may be purchased from the Scarecrow Press, 2341 Prospect Avenue NW., Washington 7, D. C., at $6 per copy. The USDA Library also has a copy.

Performance ratings

THE DEPARTMENTS performance rating plan was approved by the Civil Service Commission on December 15. Instructions to bureaus for operating under the plan went out from the Office of Personnel in Advances Nos. 234 and 235 on December 28. Operations under the new plan began December 29. Employees may be rated Satisfactory, Unsatisfactory, or Outstanding. Only those employees who perform all of their duties in such an outstanding fashion as to be entitled to special commendation may be rated Outstanding.

Ratings will be made once a year for most employees. Those in GS–11 and above need be rated only every 18 months. The ratings will be based on performance requirements which the supervisor and employee will review together at the beginning of each rating period and at other times, if the requirements change, or if the employee's performance is not up to requirements.

Maxims for all

GIFFORD PINCHOT in one of his lectures on forest policy at the Yale School of Forestry, 1910–20, gave 11 maxims to guide the behavior of foresters in public office. However, they might well be learned and practiced by all of us Federal employees. Here they are:

1. A public official is there to serve the public and not run them. 2. Public support of acts affecting public rights is absolutely required. 3. It is more trouble to consult the public than to ignore them, but that is what you are hired for. 4. Find out in advance what the public will stand for; if it is right and they won't stand for it, postpone action and educate them. 5. *Use the press first, last, and all the time if you want to reach the public.* 6. Get rid of the attitude of personal arrogance or pride of attainment or superior knowledge. 7. Don't try any sly or foxy politics because a forester is not a politician. 8. Learn tact simply by being absolutely honest and sincere, and by learning to recognize the point of view of the other man and meet him with arguments he will understand. 9. Don't be afraid to give credit to someone else even when it belongs to you; not to do so is the sure mark of a weak man, but to do so is the hardest lesson to learn; encourage others to do things; you may accomplish many things through others that you can't get done on your single initiative. 10. Don't be a knocker; use persuasion rather than force, when possible; plenty of knockers are to be had; your job is to promote unity. 11. Don't make enemies unnecessarily and for trivial reasons; if you are any good you will make plenty of them on matters of straight honesty and public policy and will need all the support you can get.

Working daze

I like work. It fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours.

Speed in plant research

IN THE GROWING work on induced polyploidy, now being carried on by geneticists in many plant fields, the scientists are frequently (some say usually) handicapped by a lack of sufficient help. For example, determining the increase in chromosome sets in the root-tip cells, the effects of artificial efforts to form tetraploids, requires patient, time-consuming search with the microscope. But now, Dr. Hamilton P. Traub, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., comes forward with some new techniques developed in breeding *Hemerocallis* (daylilies). Finding himself almost entirely dependent upon Traub for all work from the initial idea to the slide box where he files away the microscopic evidence, he set out to devise quicker and better methods for direct-permanent mounting of the root tips for chromosome study. His method includes immediate direct permanent staining and mounting in such a way as to provide excellent optical properties.

Dr. Traub's procedure is basically this: He prepares pure metallic salts of arabinic acid (arabinates). He has prepared as many as 45 different ones, some from the rarer metals. He combines 1 gram of arabinate with 1 gram of d-sorbitol and 10 milliliters of formo-carmine, which gives the direct-combination stain-mounting material. This stain and preservative preparation when applied to the specimen is covered by the micro cover glass and is permanent when hardened. The arabinate stain mixture is relatively less viscous than most similar preparations, and this makes it possible to crush the root-tip cells (with which Dr. Traub commonly works) so that chromosomes are nicely spread out for easy counting and study.

With this improved rapid method it has been possible for Dr. Traub to make greater progress in studying the vast amount of material treated for inducing polyploidy. In one of these studies with daylilies he has reported the first complete tetraploid daylily in the genus (*Hemerocallis*). Since in his daylily work most of the material treated is not completely polyploid (chimeric), he has shown that complete polyploids can be obtained from these imperfect ones by self-pollinating or crossing. Dr. Traub has made a synthetic tetraploid species of daylily—the first such species in the genus. This species he has named *Hemerocallis washingtonia,* in honor of Washington, D. C. This, he says, is an intrabreeding group developed from the first reported individual tetraploid in the genus, so after making the first individual tetraploid, he went ahead and developed a species.

Extension in India

EXTENSION WORK of the Point IV type is working well among the "little people" of India. That's the word from Horace C. Holmes, chief agriculturist, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, based on his work and first-hand observations as agricultural adviser to the United Provinces government of India. Holmes, when in Washington recently, said that India with its variations of climate, people, cults, religions, taboos, and political and economic ills presents a host of problems to the extension worker. Experience in the area around Mahewa in the United Provinces has shown, however, that if the proper extension approach is used, Indian farmers will adopt and carry out practices that increase their agricultural production and raise their living standards.

Illiteracy has long been general in the Mahewa area, farming methods and living standards primitive, and disease widespread. Nevertheless the people have begun to cooperate with agricultural advisers to increase their wheat and potato yields, grow vegetables, plant legumes, use small turning plows, control disease, establish workshops, clean their villages and learn to read. This came about, Holmes says, when extension workers convinced the people they were sincere about helping them and carefully refrained from trying to induce or persuade them to do anything just because they felt it was "good for them". Instead, the technique was to carry out test demonstrations of certain practices and let them see and measure the results themselves. Holmes has just returned to India as chief of a technical agricultural group for implementing Point IV work there.

Art of Teaching

"We are all pupils and we are all teachers. Most people do not realize how much even of their private life is taken up with amateurish teaching and haphazard learning; and not many understand that most of us, as public beings, either learn or teach incessantly." And most of us could probably add to that quotation from "The Art of Teaching" by Gilbert Highet that we have given up the idea of trying to improve our teaching by reading "how-to-do-it" books. Most of the books on methods in education are written in a jargon that only the professional understands. But not this one. You'll enjoy reading this one. It is in language we can all understand and discusses situations and people which we all recognize. It is available from libraries or from Alfred A. Knopf, New York City, for $3.50.

"Ray" Weir retires

RAYMOND JOHN WEIR has retired as Assistant to the Director, Office of Plant and Operations, with a wistful California-way look in his eyes. A native of Chicago and a graduate of its Metropolitan Business College, he entered old Bureau of Plant Industry in February 1910. In spite of his high proficiency in stenography and typewriting, they started him off weighing seed in the old seed warehouse, possibly to see how he would stand up under boredom. He survived to latch on to a position in the Office of the Secretary, and his record shows 35 promotions, a monotonous succession of Excellent efficiency ratings (or the equivalent), and a Superior Accomplishment Pay Increase. He had had almost 41 years of service.

"Ray" is a highly qualified administrative worker, a smooth man with pen or voice, and a person of outstanding initiative, skill, foresight, judgment, and public spirit. He was, it seems, perennially occupied with drives to sell Savings Bonds, or to induce employees to give to Red Cross, Community Chest, and so on, and during his final days in the service, he was busily engaged in collecting food, clothing, and toys for needy families. This is so much in character that he is sure to revert to type even in California and busy himself with good works. His personnel folder is one to be envied by all employees. His successful career sets a high standard for us all to shoot at and also proves that USDA's Fair Employment Program means something.

1940 and now

TEN YEARS AGO it was easier to increase farm production heavily than it is today. Prices are already high, so we could hope to stimulate little further production by increased farm prices. Manpower reserves are not stockpiled on farms now. The number of work stock has decreased, hence we could free fewer acres from feed for food production by mechanization; indeed our farms are so extensively mechanized now that further mechanization is limited, and the farm's dependence on industry for production tools is greater than ever. We could not expect the large increases we chalked up from using hybrid seed in the forties. Domestic and export demand is high for cotton, wheat, oil, oilseeds, and feed grains—with need for 16 million bales of

cotton, for instance, we could free little Cotton Belt land for food production. Our high current rates of feeding livestock limit expansion here to available feed supplies and, since we now use twice as much fertilizer as we did in 1941, we could hardly hope to increase farm production much by its increased use.

Of course, we have gained invaluable experience in meeting emergency situations. This is true in Government, on farms, everywhere. We have a better legislative basis for coping with emergencies, the Defense Production Act, for instance. And the over-all condition of the farm plant is good—fertility stored in the soil, buildings repaired, worn-out machinery replaced, and greater financial resources on the farm. So Deputy Administrator Frank K. Woolley of Production and Marketing Administration recently sized up the situation.

Brief but important

Corn borer traps

John G. Taylor, a USDA agricultural engineer, has been working with scientists at Purdue to develop an electric corn borer moth trap. Considerable progress has been made. For a description of the trap so far giving the best kill *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address end of last column, last page, as always, and ask for No. 3046.

Where CCC surplus stocks went

If you are interested in the distribution by State agencies of donations of Commodity Credit Corporation surplus foods to eligible recipients in the United States, totaling nearly 318 million pounds through November 30, 1950, *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address in last column, back page, and ask for No. 3055, which lists the recipients and gives the total quantities of each food product involved.

Honey program

The current program to encourage both new domestic uses and exportation of honey will be continued. Details of the program, including application forms, are available from Harold J. Clay, Fruit and Vegetable Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.; R. M. Walker, USDA, 333–335 Fell Street, San Francisco 2; and Chester A. Halnan, USDA, Room 620, 90 Church Street, New York City 7.

A half-century of co-ops

The January 1951 issue of "News for Farmer Cooperatives," an illustrated periodical issued by Farm Credit Administration, is a special edition covering a half century of co-op growth, with a look also into the next half-century—here's hoping for the best! If you are interested in cooperatives you should get a copy of this special issue. As long as a supply is available FCA will be glad to give you a single copy if you write in to its Division of Information and Extension. When the free supply is exhausted, or if you want more than one copy, it is available at the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., 15 cents a copy. We recommend it highly.

When slimming

Watch your proteins when on a weight-reducing spree. Don't assume that you can safely reduce merely by cutting down on fats, sugars, and starches in a good normal diet, while easing hunger pangs with low-calorie items like lettuce and celery. You should have more protein than usual, when thus dieting, to maintain your nitrogen balance. This is especially true if you are teen-age and still growing, but also true to a considerable extent at any age.

J. C. Crawford dies

James Chamberlain Crawford, a retired USDA and National Museum entomologist, died December 20, aged 70. A graduate of the University of Nebraska, he first taught there, then entered the old Bureau of Entomology in 1904, became the Museum's associate curator on insects 1911–19, and returned to USDA to work on the Mexican bean beetle in Black Mountain, N. C. He was called into Washington in 1930 and continued his research in entomology until he retired in August 1950.

Eastern Lab

The Mallinckrodt Chemical Works of St. Louis has issued, in the form of a large folder, "An Outline of the History of Chemistry." It is as informative as it is ingenious. On one page are cited five outstanding contributions of the analytical chemist. Among these is featured a full description of the very outstanding work the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry did on the utilization of low-grade animal fats in the production of synthetic rubber. These scientists thus increased synthetic rubber production from 800,000 to 1,000,000 tons annually, with the same plant facilities, at an estimated yearly saving to the public of around 10 million dollars. This is a handsome tribute to a fine Laboratory.

Nutrition advisory committee

A Food and Nutrition Advisory Committee came into being at meetings held in Washington during December. It reviewed and evaluated USDA's food and nutrition research program, which is largely in the hands of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. The members: Dr. M. K. Bennett, Stanford University; Gertrude Dieken, Farm Journal; Mrs. Hiram Cole Houghton, president, General Federation of Women's Clubs; Marjorie Child Husted, of Minneapolis; Col. Paul P. Logan, National Restaurant Association; Dr. Esther Austin Martin, National Dairy Council; Dr. L. A. Maynard, Cornell; Dr. Herbert E. Robinson, Swift & Co.; Katherine R. Smith, National Canners Association; Dr. E. Neige Todhunter, University of Alabama; and Dr. James Wilson, of the American Medical Association.

Barss retires

Howard P. Barss, botanist in the Office of Experiment Stations, has retired after 40 years of Federal-State service. A native of Canada, he was naturalized in 1906, took his bachelor's at University of Rochester, his master's at Harvard, and joined the staff of Washington State College in 1910. Leaving in 1912, he joined the staff of Oregon State at Corvallis, where he became head of the department of botany and plant pathology. He entered OES 17 years ago. His professional services during the two world wars were outstanding, he is the author of more than 100 publications dealing with plant diseases and their control, and he received a USDA Superior Service Award in 1949. A life member of the American Phytopathological Society, he has served as its president and in other offices many times.

Potash in Britain

Britain has recently announced a tremendous find of potash, estimated at more than 200 million tons, near Whitby, in North Yorkshire. The deposits appear to extend from 10 miles inland to well under the sea. Hitherto Britain has had to import potash at heavy cost.

Scientific manpower in crisis

We have copies of a talk delivered by Commissioner Henry DeWolf Smyth, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, before the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Entitled "The Stockpiling and Rationing of Scientific Manpower," it discusses the broad complex of problems revolving around the employment of scientists during emergencies and wars, as well as the danger of regimentation, and ends with constructive proposals. The subject is important; the author is an expert. For a copy *write* the editor of *USDA* and request by title.

About meat

Production and Marketing Administration's new Federal grade standards for slaughter (live) steers, heifers, cows, bulls, and stags, went into effect as revised, December 30. For details on what will hereafter constitute Prime, Choice, Good, Commercial, Utility, and Cutter and Canner beef grades, write for No. 3104. An amendment to the Federal Meat Inspection Regulations also became effective December 30, adding Mexico to the list of those countries from which certain meats, including canned and cooked meats and meat food products, can be imported into the U. S. For a little more information on this ask for No. 3116. *Write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address bottom of last column, back page, as always.

Long public service

The Hon. Adolph J. Sabath of Illinois, dean of the House of Representatives, has hung up a remarkable record by serving in Congress longer than any other Member. He has passed the mark set by Justin Smith Morrill of Vermont, father of the Land-Grant College Act, who died in 1898, and whose combined, uninterrupted service in the House and Senate covered 43 years, 9 months, and 24 days. The Morrill Act was approved July 2, 1862, by President Lincoln. It endowed the colleges with 11 million acres of public land, nearly twice the area of Morrill's home State, which the States were authorized to sell, using the proceeds to endow colleges of agriculture and mechanical arts. This law is constitutionally important as it marks the beginning of Federal grants-in-aid to the States.

Central Project Office

The Central Project Office, Agricultural Research Administration, helps coordinate research, marketing service, and statistical work in USDA by providing an intensive and informative central record dealing with work in these categories. In addition to ARA the following participate: BAE, Ext, FCA, FAR, FS, Inf, PMA, and SCS. The work of our other agencies does not fall into the categories mentioned. By an intricate and rather awesome, yet highly efficient system, the Office provides guides for better balanced research programs, aids in increasing the efficiency of individual research workers, and acts as a source of information on current agricultural research. If interested in its evolution and operations, by all means get Agriculture Information Bulletin No. 23, "The Central Project Office in the Agricultural Research Administration," and read up on the subject. Procure as you do other printed publications, as often explained in *USDA*.

Dean Funchess retires

Dean M. J. Funchess of Alabama Polytechnic Institute has retired, after 40 years of service, and been succeeded as dean and director by Dr. E. V. Smith, his associate for the past several years.

"Farm and Home Research"

We again call attention to this nice little illustrated, slick-paper quarterly that reports progress at the Colorado A & M Experiment Station, Fort Collins, Colo. If interested, write in there for a sample copy.

Wheat and flour in Latin America

If interested in the wheat and flour trade in Latin America you should read Henry A. Baehr's reports of his Research and Marketing Act study on the subject, which you can get from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, USDA; write in, or phone Ext. 2445.

Halsey speaks

George D. Halsey, personnel officer for Farm Credit Administration in Columbia, S. C., participated in the first seminar convoked under the United Nations program for training in public administration, in New York City recently. He spoke on "Human Relations in Public Personnel Administration."

California rice

High yields from the first 1,400 acres of commercial rice lands planted in California, in 1912, resulted in rapid expansion of the industry. In 1949 the State had 290,000 acres in rice. Growing here began 7 years after that in Arkansas and 27 after the principal Louisiana-Texas area got under way in 1885. For more details get Farmers' Bulletin 2022, "Rice Culture in California," by three agronomists of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering.

Licorice

Possibly some of you are old enough to remember taking licorice powder as a child. Here is a medicine that passed into the pharmacopeia from folklore, then made the trip back again, and came to be regarded as an inert root with some flavoring possibilities. Now patient work in Amsterdam indicates that licorice does contain a powerful drug after all. For more details see the lead article in the (British) Lancet for September 23, 1950; we lack space to quote all the authors' names here.

Again, and again, and again!

George D. Halsey, personnel officer of Farm Credit Administration in Columbia, S. C., has done it yet again. Once more he has produced a readable, intelligent, practical, and comprehensive work. This time it is "Selecting and Inducting Employees," published by Harper & Bro., at $4.50 a copy. Harper published his earlier "Handbook of Personnel Management," and his "Supervising People." The author of still other books in his field, he is one of the foremost authorities writing on personnel management in this country today. He has had wide experience inside and outside Government. The present handbook of tested employment procedures should be invaluable to supervisors and executives in and outside of Government. The subject is treated completely from vocationally significant qualities and preparing the specifications to recruitment, tests and examinations, and starting the new worker on his job.

Food and People Program

If you are interested in a world round-up of the UNESCO Food and People Program, you will find it in a recent issue of UNESCO World Review. To get on its mailing list write the U. S. National Commission for UNESCO, Department of State, Washington 25, D. C.

Effective USDA letters

As the supply of "Writing Effective USDA Letters" is low, the Office of Personnel will soon reissue in one illustrated booklet all the instructions we need to improve the letters we write. What do you think should be included in this booklet? Send your ideas to the editor of *USDA*.

Selected farm fiction

We have copies of the annual edition of "Selected Rural Fiction in 1950," compiled by that superb judge of such fiction, Miss Caroline Sherman of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. If you want a copy *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address as always, end of last column, last page.

Personnel Administration

Our Office of Personnel is about to revise its list of publications on personnel administration now available in the USDA Library and branches. If you know of books or magazines that would help improve USDA personnel work, send your suggestions to Director T. Roy Reid, Office of Personnel, USDA. As funds will be limited, the publications most mentioned will get priority.

Dr. McCall honored

Dr. Max A. McCall, Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering, was honored by a citation recently. The International Crop Improvement Association cited his field-crop research for outstanding service in furnishing leadership for crop improvement through the development of better varieties, the producton of certified seed, and for getting farmers to accept superior strains.

Ladybeetle caches

The term "cache" is used by entomologists to denote the places where ladybeetles (and no doubt a few gentlemanbeetles also) gather to winter. Useful in the fields because they prey on plant lice, the ladybeetles are friends of farmers. Year after year the species return to one cache for the winter—individual beetles do not live long enough to do so. Some of these caches are on high buttes and mountaintops, others in marshy and boggy areas.

Just a few words

James Thorp, an employee of Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering in Lincoln, Nebr., remarks that he found some curious word usages in Yorkshire, England, last summer, to wit: "The streets of York are called 'gates,' and the gates in the old city walls are called 'bars.' Yorkshire farmers call a ditch a 'dike,' and a dike or levee, by our terminology, is a 'wall' to a Yorkshireman. Sediments deposited by tidewater behind the dikes or 'walls' are called 'warp.' Excellent pastures and cultivated land have been developed on 'warp soils.'" The editorial committee on ugly, untidy, and vulgar words has recently come up with the following nominations in the first category: Butt in, goofer feathers, chew or bite (nails, say), and discombobulate. In the second category are, so far, obloquy, ablutions, eviscerated, and abdomen. In the third—and if you have any additions, please send them along: Guzzling, pooped, stinker, lousy, pimples (even in goose pimples) and making the mouth water. Further nominations are in order.

Where we began

Everett Bierman of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics has done some historical research that indicates the office of the Commissioner of Patents was in the second room to the right when you entered the old Patent Office (now U. S. Civil Service Commission Building) in 1847. We might presume that the USDA was organized there in 1862, though Isaac Newton, then in charge of agricultural affairs for the Patent Office, speaks sourly of inhabitating two basement rooms at the time.

When men ate food

A group of Massachusetts doctors gathered together for dinner on May 27, 1850. They were served the following boiled (the meats, not the doctors)—salmon, corned beef, ham, tongue, mutton legs, chickens, pork, and lobsters; the following roasted—beef, pigs, veal, button, and chickens; and also veal fixed in four fancy ways, mutton in two, beef a la mode, fillet of beef, curried pullets, lobster salad, oyster pies, and macaroni with cheese; plus custard puddings, apple, squash, and rhubarb pie, ice cream, oranges, almonds, and raisins. The feast led off with mock turtle soup. Apparently vegetables didn't exist then.

Ouch! My ear!!

There are still quite a few people who would like to lower the boom on others who ring their phones, then abruptly hang up without explanation. It is presumed that these individuals have called a wrong number, and wrong numbers are much easier to get now that we dial one another than when we gave correct numbers to a girl who saw that we got them. It is also true that a peculiar sense of frustration and a conviction of stupidity comes over you when you dial a wrong number. You hardly know what to say so, too often, you say nothing, and hang up with an abrupt click. Couldn't we cultivate a habit of remarking "Excuse a fool, please," if nothing else to account for such lapses?

The shrew

The shrew, smallest of all mammals and scarcely longer than its own scientific name, weighs about half an ounce, is covered with brown fur, and usually moves so fast it resembles a brownish streak. Females produce 3 litters of 4 to 7 annually. Having a metabolic rate of 183, the shrew eats its own weight daily and isn't too particular—insects and their larvae, centipedes, mice, snails, salamanders, and other shrews will do nicely. It does not bother to cook or even kill its prey—eats it alive. It is a valuable species of wildlife, never damages crops, and rids fields of many injurious insects. The rumor of its evil disposition is probably groundless. It dies of old age at 12 to 14 months, bar accident.

Thirsty mink

If you think the girl who wore the mink was thirsty, you should consider the mink, an evil-dispositioned little mammal that can live scarcely 3 days without water, whereas man can go 12 days. Kits are likely to die even if deprived of water for a single day and frequent watering has been found well worth while by mink growers. In fact, in a recent test by our Bureau of Animal Industry scientists, mink kits grew 12 percent faster when watered seven instead of merely three times a day. Pelts of the males were 2 inches longer when they got plenty of water. A stream flowing through a trough is bad though, for it easily spreads disease among the mink. Mink need salt, but very little; too much easily poisons them causing symptoms similar to the dehydration following water shortage. The mink is a steady and consistent drinker.

The merry mammals

The aardvark has cylindrical teeth which lack enamel and roots. The capybara is the largest living member of the rodent family; it attains a length of 4 feet and a weight of 75–100 pounds. The late baluchitherium was presumably the largest land mammal that ever lived—shoulder height, 18 feet; weight, 10 tons.

Dallas USDA Club

The Dallas USDA Club News for December contains the annual report of this active organization which has gone far in the matter of promoting group hospital insurance and obtaining mercantile discounts for members. Certain minor legal services have been procured from the Office of the Solicitor, a directory of membership has been prepared and published, the USDA Club News flourishes, and entertainment, recreational, and educational activities all have wide participation.

Science at the microphone

After some horrifying experiences at a world congress of something or another a British scientist remarked recently that most of those who presented papers were pathetically inefficient in selling their bills of goods. Yet scientists attend meeting to sell their results and ideas to others. But the great majority were said to be inaudible to four-fifths of their audience. To cure this, repeated rehearsal was suggested, such as an invited radio speaker has to do. Secondly, speakers should be admonished to speak to the mike. Finally, the speakers were accused also of crowding slides with complicated data far too difficult to comprehend in the short time they were exposed.

Farm safety

The Farm Division of the National Safety Council reports that, during the past year, one State Farm Safety Committee was organized and 23 were serviced. It participated in meetings in 36 States, promoted a better organized and more generally recognized National Farm Safety Week, stimulated an increased number of farm-accident surveys, and published three Safe Farm Practice Leaflets. Special fortnightly releases went out to agricultural colleges, vocational agricultural supervisors, and farm-equipment organizations, a permanent committee was established for the long-time support of farm safety, and contacts were made with more than 150 organizations of national importance. There is steady improvement in the Farm Safety Review. The USDA cooperates closely with the National Safety Council in this work.

Where did the glue go?

Several years ago Prof. Hideki Yukawa, noted Japanese physicist, postulated that there were in the atom particles called mesons, with masses 200 times that of the electron. They acted as the glue or cosmic cement which held the atom together. For it has been calculated that a pound of protons at each pole of the earth would repel each other with a force of 26 tons, yet protons somehow hold together within the infinitesimally small atomic nucleus with tremendous force. Later Prof. Yukawa's mesons were actually found and identified and he was awarded a Nobel Prize. However, recent experiments with giant atom-smashing machines have yielded results that invalidate the idea that mesons glue the atom and the universe together. More puzzled than ever by this confusing development, physicists can merely speculate on where the glue went or whether it exists at all.

Think about a garden

The way prices are going and supplies may go, it would be a good idea to keep in mind the fact that home-growing of the groceries will be more important than ever in 1951. "Grow, can, and freeze your own," looks like a good slogan.

Watch those metaphors

At a recent press conference someone, apropos of nothing, stood up and quoted this as an example of what a tangled web we weave once we get to speaking metaphorically: "We chase vain shadows, the bubble bursts, and leaves nothing but ashes in our empty hands."

Turkey growth speeded

Washington State College reports custom-built turkeys finished out at any age above 11 weeks by the use of two growth-regulating chemicals, the female sex hormone, diethylstilbestrol, and the thyroid-inhibiting compound, thiouracil. Dr. William Stadelman is conducting a 2-year project on this.

More apples

More regular and larger supplies of better apples are assured by the development and increasing use of dinitro blossom thinners, according to Dr. L. P. Batjer, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, stationed at Wenatchee, Wash. To stay in business the apple grower must have a good crop of saleable apples every year. The trees on which blossoms have been properly thinned by spraying with these chemicals waste none of their substance growing useless apples to part-maturity as happens when hand-thinning is used. The quality of the fruit is better and the trees bear well the following year.

The t. b. m.

The tired businessman has now been found to suffer from a fatigue syndrome, often rooted in feelings of frustration, insecurity, and fear of failure. He needs, not chorus girls, but a better breakfast, fewer cigarettes and cocktails, more attention to his disordered carbohydrate metabolism, a few drugs, and a dash of psychiatry. "Exhaustion in the Young Business Executive," by Drs. Portis, Zitman, and Lawrence, in the Journal of the American Medical Association for December 2, 1950, gives the details—but better not try to treat yourself—go to your doctor, if you think you have the symptoms described. A lesson for personnel workers and supervisors is here if they will read and heed. As Dr. Portis says: "Fatigue is a pleomorphous symptom," and who are we to contradict him? It's in the mind as well as the muscles.

Tobacco abroad

Three new publications on tobacco which report Research and Marketing Act studies are available. One shows that the U. S. share of the United Kingdom's tobacco market is at a new low, and gives other apposite information. Entitled "The Position of U. S. Tobacco in the United Kingdom Market", it is by J. B. Gibbs of FAR. Another, entitled "Trends in South and East Africa Affecting U. S. Trade in Tobacco", is by George W. Van Dyne, also of FAR, and reports a study made in Southern Rhodesia, Union of South Africa, Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia, Mozambique, Tanganyika, Kenya, and Uganda. The third, "Market for U. S. Tobacco in Switzerland", is also by J. B. Gibbs of FAR. Procure these from Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, USDA, (Ext. 2445, or write in); request Foreign Agriculture Circular FT–20–50, Foreign Agriculture Report No. 55, and Foreign Agriculture Circular FT–18–50, respectively.

New cotton cleaner

New USDA Circular 858 is "The Flow-Through Lint-Cotton Cleaner," and is by Victor L. Stedronsky, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, and Charles S. Shaw, of Production and Marketing Administration. It describes a new device designed to do a better cleaning job at the gin on roughly, as well as on mechanically, harvested cotton.

Tall corn in Brooklyn

Not only a tree but also tall corn grows in Brooklyn, on a little 1,000-plant experimental patch next to a coalyard and the railroad tracks. Planted by the biology department of Brooklyn College for genetic experiments, its multicolored kernels range from yellow to white, red, purple, blue, and brown, as produced by cross-pollination and treatment of the pollen with ultraviolet and X-rays and various chemicals.

They write in to say—

Farmers Home Administration supervisors get some puzzling letters in debt-settlement cases, such as: "This man is deceased. His whereabouts have been unknown over 4 years and mail addressed to him has been forwarded and returned marked 'Moved and Left No Forwarding Address.' " Or this: "Mr. B. passed away 5 years ago as indicated by a son which you will find enclosed in his docket." Or even this: "I can tell you this man died about 5 years ago. This is all I can say. I like to help my Government as I'm an employee of it."

Small-feed-mill research

W. M. Hurst, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, cites the need for research assistance in developing more efficient small feed mills across the country. Large mill operations are set up with the help and advice of engineers, but many of the small mills turning out 1 to 2 tons of feed per hour are operated without such assistance, and are often established in existing and inadequate buildings. There is need for scientific consideration of mill design, construction materials, the type and placement of mill machinery, and improvements in its shape, size, and design.

Forestry publications

New publications from Forest Service are Agriculture Handbook No. 9, "Southwestern Trees—A Guide to the Native Species of New Mexico and Arizona," by Elbert L. Little, Jr.; Agriculture Monograph No. 6, "Management of Ponderosa Pine in the Southwest," by G. A. Pearson; Forest Resource Report No. 1, "Forest Resources of the Lake State Region," by R. N. Cunningham and the Forest Survey Staff, Lake States Forest Experiment Station; and the specially attractive booklet on "National Forest Vacations," which abounds in information on the subject. Procure as you do other printed publications, as often explained in *USDA*.

Making lespedeza cross

This has nothing to do with tantalizing the plant to make it angry. Cross-breeding of lespedeza has been limited until recently because few of the crosses would set seed. Now our plant breeders, Federal and State, have found that the stigmas of annual lespedeza flowers are receptive to fertilization for a few hours before the anthers dehisce (look that one up) and supply pollen for self-fertilization. Hence plant breeders can fertilize very young flowers with pollen from another strain without having to emasculate the seed-bearing flower, and this makes successful hybridization possible. Better varieties are on the way. (And dehisce is geneticist's code for burst open, that's all.)

Chester Davis

Chester A. Davis, former Administrator of AAA and WFA, and President of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, has become an associate director of the new Ford Foundation.

"The Land News"

This quarterly illustrated magazine published by the Friends of the Land from 1368 North High Street, Columbus 1, Ohio, is consistently readable, informative, and worth while.

IFYE project continues

The International Farm Youth Exchange project will be continued in 1951, unless the international situation grows worse. The program has added greatly to international understanding.

Feed market news

A market news service giving local market information on grain-byproduct feeds, oilseed meals, and commercial feeds, has been started experimentally from the PMA Market News Office, 116 Federal Office Building, Minneapolis, Minn.

"Marketing Activities"

The November 1950 issue of this monthly contains valuable information on grain drying, oilseeds in western Europe, hop quality, reducing cantaloup shipping losses, and several other subjects. To get a copy write Information Branch, Production and Marketing Administration.

Mena Hogan to FAR

Mena Hogan, southern States field agent of Extension Service, has been detailed to work with Dr. Douglas Ensminger in the Education and Training Division, Technical Collaboration Branch, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Accordingly, Miss Hogan will be on leave from Extension Service for a year to carry on this assignment.

Strawberry aphid yields ground

Washington State reports that its strawberry industry is coming back strong because their entomologists have learned how to control the strawberry aphid with such horrendous things as benzene hexachloride (BHC), parathion, and even tetraethyl pyrophosphate (TEPP). The aphid, a persistent and dangerous critter, travels around strawbery fields feeding on the plants and that assists the dread yellows disease to finish them off.

Computing machines

Talk about mechanical brains—the lead article in Science for December 22 is by Mina Rees, Mathematical Sciences Division, Office of Naval Research, on "The Federal Computing Machine Program." Actually many governmental operations of today simply could not be performed at all if we had to rely on old-fashioned hand methods of computation. The article offers an extremely informative and interesting discussion of the increasing dependence of modern government on computing machines.

Publications of interest

Good seasonal reading are: "Growing Vegetables in Town and City," Miscellaneous Publication 538, and "Home Canning of Fruits and Vetgetables," AIS 64. * * * And, if you feel like hedging in a nonspeculative sense, you might find much of interest in Farmers' Bulletin 2019, by A. C. Hildreth of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, which gives a good list of ornamental hedge species suitable for planting in the Central Plains. Procure as you do other USDA printed publications, as often explained in *USDA*.

Tobacco statistics

Production and Marketing Administration has issued its "Annual Report on Tobacco Statistics" for 1950; ask for Statistical Bulletin No. 92, and procure as you do other printed publications.

REA's progress

Rural Electrification Administration's power "consumers" used 25 percent more electricity in 1950 than in 1949. If you would like statistical and other year-end details about the work of REA *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 3110.

Kinman retires

Charles F. Kinman of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, has retired after 41 years mainly devoted to research on oranges, lemons, olives, plums, and prunes. A native of Illinois, he graduated from Kansas State. His USDA work included 9 years at the Puerto Rico Agricultural Experiment Station. He is the author of numerous publications in his field.

Harris moves

William S. Harris has left the Office of the Secretary to become Chief of the Management Improvement Division, Office of Personnel Management, Production and Marketing Administration. He was formerly with Office of Personnel and also Farm Credit Administration. He has done much to help develop our awards and suggestions programs and has been in charge of codifying USDA's regulations since 1948.

Frozen concentrated milk

The cows seems to get further and further away from the consumer's milk! Now, in a recently completed Research and Marketing Act study, scientists in our Bureau of Dairy Industry have shown how to produce frozen concentrated milk that may be kept in frozen storage several months and, when reconstituted with water, is acceptable as a beverage. For more details on this process *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address at end of last column, and ask for No. 3089.

Safe drivers

C. D. Lowe of Extension Service sends a clipping from the Chicago Daily Drover's Journal for December 8, 1950, an editorial called "Not 'Plow Jockeys.'" It digests a survey of 1.5 million private passenger cars made in 40 States by an automobile insurance company doing a Nation-wide business. County agents, farm demonstrators, and extension workers ranked first as having the fewest accidents. Bankers came next, aviators third, and farmers fifth. Truck drivers ranked thirty-sixth on this scale and traveling salesmen staggered in sixty-second!

Tobacco growing

Tobacco growers do very well, beset as they are by some 40 diseases, injuries, and adverse conditions that menace their crop, and all of which have been getting progressively worse in recent years. Hence their problems have multiplied and intensified. For more details get Farmers' Bulletin 2023, by E. E. Clayton, and J. E. McMurtrey, Jr., of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, which superseded old USDA Bulletin 1236, issued a quarter century ago. It discusses disease problems at various stages of the crop, recommends control measures, and includes information on the identification of diseases and disease-resistant varieties. It covers all common commercial varieties grown.

Borden Award to McMeekin

The Borden Award in Chemistry of Milk will go to Dr. Thomas L. McMeekin, Eastern Regional Research Laboratory, Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, for his important contributions to the scientific understanding of milk proteins. The Award, established in 1938, and sponsored by the Borden Company Foundation, Inc., consists of a gold medal and $1,000. Winners are chosen annually by the American Chemical Society. One indirect result of McMeekin's work is the present commercial production of caesin-bristle fiber used in carburetor air filters for automobiles, and in an improved padding material for mattresses and upholstered furniture.

USDA DOCUMENTS

All *USDA* documents are in stock as follows: No. 1, Origin, Structure, and Functions of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, October 1, 1950; No. 2, Abridged List of Federal Laws Applicable to Agriculture, October 15, 1950; No. 3, Biographies of Persons in Charge of Federal Agricultural Work, 1836 to Date, June 2, 1948; No. 4, Condensed History of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, May 15, 1950; No. 5, Our Department Scientists—outstanding achievements of some of our earlier famous workers in natural science; No. 6, Important Recent Achievements of Department of Agriculture Scientists, October 1, 1950. Order by number. Send written orders to the editor of *USDA*, or phone Ext. 4649.

HOW TO GET PRINTED PUBLICATIONS

You may secure the printed publications you request as follows: *Washington employees* can best get printed publications at Room 104A, to the right as you enter the Administration Building. *Field employees* address: Inquiries and Distribution Service, Division of Publications, Office of Information, USDA, Washington 25, D. C. *Extension workers:* Some States require all orders for USDA publications to be sent to State extension headquarters. Others do not. However, when requesting 50 or more copies of one publication, your order should clear through your State publication distribution officer. Orders sent to Washington should be addressed to the Division of Extension Information, Extension Service, USDA, Washington 25, D. C. Please do *not* ask the editor of *USDA* for copies of such publications, as he has no stock of them. He stocks *only* items for which you are told to *write* the editor of *USDA*. (These instructions appeared in *USDA*, the Employee News Bulletin, for October 10, 1949, January 16, April 10, and September 13, 1950.)

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Employee News Bulletin

FOR FEBRUARY 14, 1951

Work of CEA

SPECULATIVE activity in soybean futures and generally increased commodity speculation following the outbreak of conflict in Korea occupied much of the attention of the Commodity Exchange Authority last fiscal year. Trading in soybean futures was more than 15 times the size of the crop. A CEA check showed that most of the trading was speculative, as was that in many war-sensitive commodities following the Korean conflict. Low margin rates permitted by commodity exchanges helped increase the volume of speculative trading, thus accentuating the inflationary effect on commodity prices.

An average of 562 large traders made daily reports to CEA on the size and character of their futures transactions. In addition, 500 exchange clearing members reported their volume of clearings and futures contracts open at the end of every day. CEA also audited the books and records of 628 commodity brokers and brokerage firms registered during the year as futures commission merchants. Its special investigatory work included surveys of floor trading practices in the New York Produce Exchange, the Memphis Merchants Exchange Clearing Association, and the Chicago Open Board of Trade.

The total dollar volume of futures trading in commodities under the Commodity Exchange Act was estimated as 32.4 billions for the year. Trading in soybean futures accounted for 29 percent of this, as compared with 12 in 1948–49; wheat futures 28, as compared with 30 percent; other grains 13, as compared with 20; cotton 26, as compared with 31; and all other commodities comprised 4 percent as compared with 7 the previous year.

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Whence more power?

IF THEY are to meet the ever-increasing demand for electricity by their consumers, Rural Electrification Administration borrowers are faced with the problem of getting access in the next 5 years to additional generating capacity equal to that installed at both Hoover Dam and Grand Coulee Dam. Already the 3,420,000 consumers on REA-financed lines are demanding power from generators equal in capacity to the entire hydroelectric installations of TVA. In 1950, they used nearly 8 billion kilowatt-hours, an increase of 25 percent over 1949, and 20 times the amount in 1940. By 1955, REA studies show, the present demand for power on rural electric systems will be at least doubled .

To meet the sky-rocketing rural electric requirements, REA borrowers are utilizing to the fullest extent all sources of power available to them. In 1950, they purchased 79 million dollars worth of electricity, an increase of 12 millions over 1949, and at the same time obtained loans for the construction of generating capacity capable of supplying 400 million kilowatt-hours a year. However, because the increase in demand is so rapid, even expanded existing facilities for supplying it are strained. REA reports that the problem of obtaining the needed additional power is expected to become one of the most difficult and important facing its program.

Oberly Award

The Oberly Memorial Award, given biennially to the American citizen who compiles the best bibliography in the field of agriculture or related sciences, will be made in 1951. The Award consists of income from a memorial fund established by colleagues of Eunice Rockwood Oberly of the Bureau of Plant Industry. Entries are limited to bibliographies issued during 1949 and 1950, and should be submitted before May 15 to the chairman of the committee, D. A. Brown, Agriculture Library, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.

They write us

"TAKE A LETTER," in the December 6 issue, hardly stirred up as much comment as we hoped (or feared). As usual, one highly competent secretary-stenographer—and we didn't have them in mind at all—wrote in to defend the dictation of letters. The half dozen who met us in the hall, or phoned to comment, agreed we had a good idea in suggesting that as much stuff as possible be roughed out on the typewriter for any typist in any pool to copy, and that dictation be resorted to as little as possible. One gentleman coyly confessed that he liked to dictate to his stenographer because she was so pretty to look at—of course, he worked in the State service which can afford the luxury of personal secretaries we Feds can seldom have. Finally, one professional man wrote in that his supervisor had told him he would be demoted to typist grade unless he quit typing so much!

Believe it or not, one field employee, Administrative Officer Marion M. Shivers, for the Troup County Production and Marketing Administration staff in LaGrange, Ga., wrote congratulations on the article saluting the high quality of our field employees—"In the field," issue of December 20. This letter reads, in part, as follows:

> Your article so justly explained the conditions and circumstances in the field of USDA. We, as workers, experience conditions similar to the ones mentioned almost every day. This office has had applications for marriage licenses and the applicant was very much provoked when instructed where he might obtain such licenses. We have had farmers request that this office write to a neighboring farmer and ask him to keep up his livestock. One telephone call asked if this might be the 'Lonely Hearts Department.' * * * Reading your article certainly encourages the employees of this office to know we have the sympathy of the employees in the Washington offices. In spite of the unpleasant conditions we experience, we still find it a pleasure to serve the public in carrying out the services of USDA.

BETTER WRITE THAN PHONE

Washington employees who want items listed as available from the editor of *USDA* will do best by sending highly informal written orders for them, always giving their agency. *If you are in a great rush* you may phone Mrs. Kintsfather on Ext. 4649, or drop by her room, 535A. However, if she is on leave or unavoidably absent from the room, you will get no results. The editor, who works several rooms away, does not have supplies of these materials. However, written orders are always promptly filled. We strongly suggest that you make your requests in writing rather than by telephone or stopping by in person.

Disaster loan record

WHEN SOME natural production disaster such as a drought or severe freeze hits a considerable number of farmers in a State or group of counties, they can ordinarily continue their operation through local private or cooperative credit. If that credit does not meet the needs, then, under certain conditions, a farmer may be eligible for a disaster loan through the Farmers Home Administration as provided under Public Law 38. Designation of an area as one in which disaster loans may be made is up to the USDA. Before designating the area, which may be a State or less, it must be convinced that such loans are necessary and otherwise unavailable. A survey is made to determine the nature and extent of the disaster, and information is submitted by the State's USDA Council and other reliable sources.

A farmer in a designated area is in for disappointment if he expects to get a disaster loan to refinance debts he already owes or to be compensated in any way for the losses he suffered from the disaster. This is not insurance. But if, as a result of the disaster, he would have to quit production for lack of necessary funds to maintain his normal farming operation, then he may apply to the local county FHA supervisor for a disaster loan. A careful check is made to see that his reduction in yields is substantial and not merely the result of normally expected yearly fluctuations.

As of June 30, 1950, a total of 26,055 loans under Public Law 38 had been made for $32,866,142. They were for crop and livestock production purposes in 1950, for rehabilitation of farm property damaged by wind and floods and of orchards damaged or destroyed by freezes, and replacement of livestock lost in blizzards, floods, and windstorms. Of the amount loaned through June 30, 1950, approximately $22,100,000 was due in the fiscal year 1951. Of this $17,593,-121 had been collected through December 1950, with other collections to be made from January 1 through June 30, 1951.

Schlup honored

A CERTIFICATE of Recognition at Large, awarded by Epsilon Sigma Phi for "outstanding extension work in the United States," was formally presented in January to Federal Extension Information Chief Lester A. Schlup, by Miss Madge J. Reese, grand secretary-treasurer. Mr. Schlup entered extension work in 1917. Except for about 2 years that he served with the AEF at General Headquarters in France, where he was cited by General Pershing for "exceptionally meritorious and conspicuous service," and awarded the Purple Heart, he has been engaged continuously in extension information work. In 1923, he became assistant chief of the information and visual aids section, and, in 1941, was appointed chief of the Division of Extension Information, having acted in that capacity from 1934.

In addition to his duties as chief of the division, Mr. Schlup has engaged in numerous related activities, such as conducting an analysis and appraisal in 1942 of the program of the Office of War Information in the Southwest, which contributed to the reorganization of that office, serving as a member of the Commission on Motion Pictures in Adult Education, and as chairman of the Department of Languages and Literature of the USDA Graduate School. He is a member of Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalistic fraternity, the American Association of Agricultural College Editors, the Washington Film Council, and other professional organizations.

Library field service

WE IN Washington know and use the Library. But how many of us know that it serves field employees faithfully through 12 branches and an entomology sub-branch specializing in agriculture? Field employees often write in, highly praising the indefatigable diligence with which the branch libraries get them the books and periodicals they need, surely and efficiently. A field worker in Oklahoma, for instance, can request specific books, have journals regularly routed to him, or get references, lists, or answers to questions from the Albuquerque Branch. A Florida worker is similarly served from Atlanta, and so on. When a branch lacks a publication requested, as may often happen because their resources are necessarily limited, those in charge have an uncanny ability to run the item down, no matter how far away it is or how difficult the job.

Insofar as possible the Library in Washington makes its resources available to field as well as Washington employees, sometimes by loan of the publication, often by supplying a photoprint or microfilm. The monthly Bibliography of Agriculture, prepared by the Library, covers the vast literature in this field better than any existing indexing or abstracting journal, regardless of language or form of publication. It averages 7,000 references per issue, classified by subject, plus complete citations and Library call numbers. Copies of this unique and valuable publication are available in USDA offices and laboratories, and may be consulted in or borrowed from the Main Library and the branches.

Four branch libraries are located at and serve the staffs of our Regional Research Laboratories in Albany, Calif.; New Orleans, La.; Peoria, Ill.; and Wyndmoor, Pa. The other branches are located at Albuquerque, Asheville, Atlanta, Beltsville, New Orleans, Madison, San Francisco, and Philadelphia. They provide invaluable library service for our staff in designated areas outlined in title 2, USDA Administrative Regulations.

Cash Awards

THE FOLLOWING individuals have received cash awards for adopted suggestions during the period of December 1 through December 31. (Detailed information concerning the suggestions may be secured from the Bureau Efficiency Award Committee):

Bureau of Animal Industry—FLORENCE E. BELL, Fontana, Calif., $25; ELIZABETH W. BULLION, Beltsville, Md., $25; HAROLD D. KIMMEL, Scottsbluff, Nebr., $25.

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation—DOROTHY M. RHODES and MARGARET A. PALMER, Washington, D. C., joint award, $50.

Forest Service—CHARLES A. GREGORY, Cadillac, Mich., $10; PAUL F. VOGEL, Alexandria, Va., $25.

Production and Marketing Administration—MADELINE G. ACOCK and GLADYS M. HOOLEY, Kansas City, Mo., joint award, $50; SIDNEY BALLIN, New York, N. Y., $70 and $35 for 2 suggestions; EVAN BERG, Berkeley, Calif., $25; ELIZABETH RABE BOZE, Atlanta, Ga., $25; JAMES T. BURNETT, Washington, D. C., $550; SALVADORE V. BUTITTA, Baton Rouge, La., $10; JOHN A. CANDELLA, Chicago, Ill., $15; HELEN V. DAVIS and OTHANIEL W. WILLIAMS, Washington, D. C., joint award, $20; MAUDE E. DIEDRICH, Chicago, Ill., $55; MABELLE A. DUGGER, Portland, Oreg., $10; CHESTER R. FRASZ, Chicago, Ill., $35; ELIZABETH B. GEIGER, Washington, D. C., $10; GILBERT GRUEN, New York, N. Y., $70; MAY HAAS, New York, N. Y., $15; JOHN HAJE, Washington, D. C., $10; LUCILLE E. HOCH, Manhattan, Kans., $10; GEORGE MACHALA, Chicago, Ill., $60; ANITA H. ROACHE, College Park, Md., $75; GEORGE E. SUDDUTH, Washington, D. C., $10; CONRAD N. SWINDELL, Washington, D. C., $10; ANA M. VIERA, San Juan, P. R., $10; BERTHA R. WARNER, Washington, D. C., $45; WILLIAM W. WILLIAMS, Washington, D. C., $10; DAVIS H. WILSON, Washington, D. C., $45.

Lespedeza

Current information on the perennial lespedezas of value here as crops for forage and soil-holding will be found in Circular 863, "Sericea and Other Perennial Lespedezas for Forage and Soil Conservation," a revision of an earlier circular by the late A. J. Pieters.

Brief but important

New dean in New Hampshire

Dr. H. C. Grinnell, who, since 1947, has served as associate dean of the College of Agriculture and associate director of New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station, became dean and director effective December 16.

Fred Butcher advises PMA

Fred Butcher, who has been working on stored-grain insects at Manhattan, Kans., for the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, has been appointed entomologist to serve as technical adviser to State PMA Committees. His primary concern will be insects affecting grain in bin storage.

Range grass seed

Ranchers often find difficulty in getting range grass seed to reseed the range. In order to help producers, handlers, and users of range grass seed, the U. S. Southern Great Plains Field Station, Woodward, Okla., has compiled a list of 92 buyers and sellers of 23 different kinds, varying from hardy crested wheatgrass to King ranch bluestem. Write to the Station in Woodward for a copy of the list if you need it.

Dr. Ewing dies

Dr. Henry Ellsworth Ewing, who retired from the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine in 1946, after service since 1919, died in Washington, D. C., January 5, aged 67. A native of Illinois, he was educated at Knox College, University of Illinois, University of Chicago, and Cornell. He was a specialist in the ectoparasites. The author of many technical articles in his field, he also contributed to the Encyclopedia Britannica, and, in 1929, published "A Manual of External Parasites."

New uses for honey

A new product approved under the Honey Diversion Program is a baby food of which honey comprises 17 percent of the total weight; also enriched with minerals and vitamins, it is being sold as a cooky. The Department has likewise approved an application for the use of honey as a spread, combined with peanut butter, spices, and other products, and for an apricot fruit spread sweetened with honey. This program was instituted to help food manufacturers in trying out honey in products in which it was not being used commercially.

RMA activities for 1950

Agricultural Research Administrator Cardon's Report of Activities under the Research and Marketing Act, 1950, is of unusual interest, particularly the "Current Appraisal of the RMA." The report also presents the work going on and some accomplishments under the Act, gives information about new projects, and deals with project inventory and analysis, the coordination of activities, the dissemination of information, and the allocation of funds, including the amounts applied to contract work during the past year. It lists the members of commodity and functional advisory committees. Many of you should or will desire to read this report, but the supply is very limited. It can be found in the experiment station and most other agricultural college libraries, of course, but must be consulted there in the library. However, 25 copies have been made available to us, and if you really need to see the report, *write in* and we can at least loan you one. Address the editor of *USDA*, name and address bottom of last column, last page.

No corn-wheat allotments

As you no doubt know, there will not be acreage allotments for the 1951 crops of corn and wheat. If you want to know the reasoning behind this decision, *write* the editor of *USDA*, and ask for No. 44.

Hybrid onions go commercial

After a quarter-century of work by plant breeders, the hybrid onion has definitely moved into the commercial field, according to USDA's Dr. Henry A. Jones. If you want to know how far it has moved and a few more details about this subject *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 37.

John Burtner

John C. Burtner, well-known in extension work, and director of the Oregon State College News Bureau, died December 22. A graduate of Oregon State, he was also extension editor until 1947, when he relinquished these duties to give full time to the News Bureau work. His successor is Fred Shideler, long head of Oregon State's journalism department, and also well known among agricultural people.

Aiton to 4–H foundation

Edward W. Aiton, 4–H Club field agent for the Northeastern States, has been granted leave of absence from Extension Service to become executive director of the National 4–H Club Foundation of America, Inc., with headquarters in Washington, D. C. Mr. Aiton has been here in Ext since October 1944. If you want to know more about him and the Foundation, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 41.

Elin Anderson

Elin Anderson, rural health specialist on the staff of Extension Service, died recently, after a lingering illness, in her native city, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Despite the serious illness she was then fighting, she managed to teach her course at the regional extension summer school, Colorado A & M last summer, but was flown home to die at its end, on August 4. She entered Ext in 1946 from the Farm Foundation. Her contributions in her chosen field were outstanding. She was a graceful and effective speaker and a very, very lovely person.

House organs

"Printers' Ink Directory of House Organs" (internal—external—combination) has just been reissued, priced at $5, from 205 East Forty-second Street, New York City 17. The edition contains 5,552 listings by title and by sponsor. There is also valuable text comment, some of which, on arousing interest in house organs, the mechanics of house organ publication, checking reader interest, and imparting personality, would be useful to all of us in information and extension work. The only publication of the USDA listed as a house organ is the Extension Service Review.

Director Pace

Former Representative Stephen Pace, of Americus, Ga., has been appointed a director of the Central Bank for Cooperatives by Governor I. W. Duggan of Farm Credit Administration. He is one of the three directors so appointed, the others being elected by the cooperatives which borrow from the bank. Mr. Pace represented the Third Congressional District in Georgia in the House from 1937 to 1950, when he did not stand for reelection. He served on the House Committee on Agriculture and has long been interested in farm co-ops. In 1944 he sponsored liberalization of Rural Electrification Administration loan terms, which opened the way to widespread developments which followed. He now practices law in Americus.

Clitocybe

There's a nifty. It's a kind of mushroom root rot disease of fruit, forest, shade, and ornamental trees, as well as shrubs and vines. If you want to know more about it, get Circular No. 853, "Clitocybe Root Rot of Woody Plants in the Southeastern U. S." If you want to bring the subject up socially, pronounce the word "cly-tos'-i-bee."

Stevenson joins AIC

Robert Edward Stevenson has left the technical service department of the National Cotton Council of America to become a textile technologist in the Washington, D. C., offices of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry. He will work under Assistant Chief Walter M. Scott in planning and coordinating investigations at the four Regional Research Laboratories on new and wider uses for cotton and other fiber crops, the development of synthetic fibers from agricultural materials, and the utilization of straw and other farm residues. Mr. Stevenson is a graduate of Bucknell and has had considerable earlier industrial research experience.

Hitchhiker blackfly

The citrus blackfly, a destructive pest in many parts of the world, likes to hitchhike. While the U. S. and Mexico are guarding the border to prevent the spread of this insect, scattering infestations are nearly always found in Mexico around bus stations, filling stations, tourist courts, fruit stands, and restaurants. N. O. Berry of USDA recently reported on a survey "south of the border," and reminded us that the pest is hard to detect, egg spirals on leaves often being the only evidence of infestation, and the adult fly rarely being seen. The inspector needs good eyesight, great patience, and extreme carefulness, while being equipped with the temperament that usually accompanies these qualities.

FHA in North Dakota

The Bank of North Dakota, in its annual report to Governor Fred G. Andahl, said it had made 49 Farmers Home Administration insured-farm-mortgage loans from January 1 to December 21 in 1950, for a total of $439,497. Veterans received 18 of these loans for $156,675. The bank's calendar-year total, compared with the June 30 fiscal-year total of such loans in the State, shows that it is the State's principal non-Government lender of insured funds to enable small farmers to own their farms. The June 30 FHA figure was 56 such loans for $504,775, in addition to 24 direct farm-ownership loans, *all to veterans*. The bank also said it had made 52 GI loans for a total of $284,816 to help veterans in buying or building homes, establishing businesses, or engaging in farming.

Brink on "Big Hugh"

"Big Hugh, the Father of Soil Conservation," is a new $2.75 book from Macmillan Co., 60 Fifth Avenue, New York City 20. It is by Wellington Brink of Soil Conservation Service, editor of its magazine, "Soil Conservation." Human, earthy, and absorbing, it traces the life of Hugh Hammond Bennett from birth to his present eminence. A soil conservation evangel at all times with a fabulous appetite for food, facts, work, and people, the message of this intensely human scientist has been carried throughout the world. He has been widely honored, nationally, and internationally, and the world has come to him for enlightenment. Brink has done an extremely competent job on this book and, even if you think you know the subject matter, it proves fascinating as well as informative to read. For instance, did you know that Big Hugh served a stretch as a pharmacist?

W. H. Stevenson dead

Vice Director W. H. Stevenson, of Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, who was a nationally recognized leader in scientific agriculture, died of a heart attack January 8.

Forest Service reports

If you want a fairly comprehensive digest of Chief Forester Lyle F. Watts' annual report on the activities of Forest Service during the past fiscal year, write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 84.

Cattle shades

Working together, USDA and University of California scientists have brought out some new facts about the effectiveness of summer shades for livestock. For details, *write* the editor of *USDA*, and ask for No. 83.

Spinach, kale, collards

A new report of a Research and Marketing Act project is available from Information Branch (Ext. 5223, Room 2608S), Production and Marketing Administration, entitled "Problems and Practices in Marketing Norfolk Spinach, Kale, and Collards."

"Foreign Crops and Markets"

This is a weekly mimeographed publication released each Monday by our Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, giving current information about foreign crop and livestock industries, trends in prices and consumption of farm products, and world agricultural trade. *Write FAR directly about getting it.*

Asa Y. Willis, Jr.

Mr. Willis, cotton technologist, Cotton Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, died January 8. A native of South Carolina, he entered USDA in 1931, soon after leaving college, and had been engaged continuously in work related to cotton research, except for a brief period with the Army during World War II.

Who discovered chromatography?

Interesting evidence is adduced in a letter to Nature (London) for December 9, 1950 (pp. 1000–01) to show that a considerable English, French, German, and Russian literature on the subject existed before Tswett performed his first chromatographic isolations of plant pigments. Discovery of the method should, it is held, be associated with the names of Day, Engler, and Albrecht, rather than that of Tswett.

New cheese whey product

Bureau of Dairy Industry announced before the research committee of the National Cheese Institute, which met in Washington in January, development of a hydrolyzed whey protein suitable for use in cheese spreads and other foods. It offers a new source of income to cheese makers. For details *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address at end of last column, last page, and ask for No. 94.

Defense administration

So far the Secretary of Agriculture remains food production chief, though the Director of the Defense Production Administration has a voice whenever a problem arises as to whether a food should be used industrially or for human and animal consumption. The use of grain for alcohol offers an example of the former. The Secretary and his designated agents will administer farm production programs and use such allocation powers as are needed in connection with food distribution.

"Wildlife Management"

This is the title of a new Macmillan book (at $4.50) by Ira N. Gabrielson, former head of Biological Survey and Fish and Wildlife Service.

Use only adapted alfalfa seed

Farmers in central and northern alfalfa zones are cautioned by USDA crop scientists and seed specialists against planting nonhardy alfalfa seed. For more details on this *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 92.

Effects of early cutting alfalfa

Scientists of the USDA and Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station have shown that the early cutting of alfalfa lowers its protein content and thins the stand. For details *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address bottom of last column as always, and ask for No. 79.

Grand Mesa grazing

The Secretary of Agriculture has confirmed the decision of the Forest Service to reduce livestock grazing on certain portions of the Grand Mesa National Forest in Colorado. For further details on this *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address bottom last column, as usual, and ask for No. 73.

Administrative-management training

The Committee on Training in Administrative Management, as now constituted, consists of C. O. Henderson, Pers, chairman, and the following: Frank H. Spencer, ARA; A. E. Jones, SCS; J. L. Wells, B&F; Earl W. Loveridge, FS; Carl Colvin, FCA; Raub Snyder, FHA; Merrill J. Collett, PMA; I. Thomas McKillop, REA; and Cannon C. Hearne, Ext.

ACP during 1950

Soil and water conservation practices were carried out on nearly 3 million farms by farmers cooperating in the 1950 Agricultural Conservation Program. Erosion was checked, fertility restored to the land, and the productivity of the soil enhanced. For details on actual accomplishments, statistical and otherwise, *write* the editor of *USDA*, and ask for No. 67.

Herrell to EPQ

Henry G. Herrell, career employee of USDA since 1927, when he entered old BPI, has become deputy assistant chief for administrative affairs in Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. A native of Virginia, who took his LL. B. from National University, he has held increasingly important administrative positions in SCS, WFA, PMA, and, most recently, as executive officer in the Office of the Administrator, ARA, which post he left for EPQ.

All but the squeal!

Many West Virginia farm families are netting more meat per home-butchered animal than ever before, because several Farmers Home Administration county supervisors have been showing them the finer points of slaughtering. These supervisors got their expert instruction last November when FHA State Director R. G. Ellyson and State Field Representative William A. Jones conducted a 1-day school on the subject at Romney. Mr. Ellyson points out that: 97 percent of farmers produce hogs for home slaughter; loss from improperly cut and cured meat each year is very costly; the farmer who produces the meat is entitled to the best; and, a good standard product for sale provides another source of income and commands the highest prices. Eight county FHA supervisors took part in the laboratory exercise held November 14 using the facilities of the School for Deaf and Blind at Romney.

You feel oscitant?

Do heavy midday lunches make you oscitant? Well, do they? Remember this has nothing to do with being a valetudinarian.

SCS New Year's letter

On January 1, 1951, Chief Hugh Bennett of Soil Conservation Service addressed a letter to the personnel of SCS all over the country. More than a mere gesture of New Year's greeting, the letter outlined the responsibilities and opportunities in the Service for the coming year. So impressed was Representative Edward H. Rees of Kansas with the letter, that he inserted it in the Congressional Record for January 8, commenting that: "Mr. Bennett has set an example that could well be followed by the heads of other agencies in our Government." If you want to see a copy of this letter *write* the editor of *USDA*, and ask for Chief Bennett's New Year's Letter.

Book by Paul Maris

"* * * the land is mine," a historical report by Paul V. Maris of a decade of the farm-ownership program under Farmers Home Administration and predecessor units, is completed and on sale from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at $1.75. It describes the program that enabled 65,000 families to purchase family-type farms, Mr. Maris having been in charge of the project from its beginning, in 1937, until his retirement in 1948. Soon after retirement the author was selected as a member of an 8-man commission of U. S. experts to advise the German Government on how to deal with the refugee problem. The book is to be used in training field workers who arrange and supervise tenant-purchase, farm-development, and farm-enlargement loans for FHA.

Shipping perishables

Recent research by the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering and the Lockheed Aircraft Corp., shows that cut flowers suffer no damage from altitudes up to 20,000 feet, and only more delicate flowers like carnations, roses, and sweet peas, deteriorate at 30,000. Warm, dry cabins and packing the flowers with ice in moistureproof boxes both help. The Bureau also reports that a simple change in loading crates of cauliflower assures faster cooling, better temperatures, and improved arrival for Long Island shippers. In tests made at Wenatchee, Wash., market equipment used to prolong the life of fruit by removing ripening gases was found to have little effect on the keeping quality of apples. California orange shippers can save as much as $40 a car by opening car door ventilators to cold air as the trains pull into the mountains coming East, and provided they also follow the results of earlier ice-saving research by this Bureau.

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USDA
Employee News Bulletin
FOR FEBRUARY 28, 1951

Typists and stenos

WE STILL GET comments on "Take a letter" in *USDA* for December 6, 1950, page 6, wherein we shyly suggested that dictation to stenographers was becoming archaic. One of the most thoughtful and interesting letters to come in was from a young lady who prefers to sign merely "An honest Government steno." Here it is.

Of course, every one knows in his (and her) heart, that stenos are parasites. The species was invented to take care of the "got-rich-quick" businessmen, who were born prior to present-day educational standards, but yet had a good chance at the natural resources of our early country. They were too busy, or lazy, or high-brow to study in their spare time—grammar, English, composition, typing, or even pure speech. Hiring a steno allowed them to appear as qualified "head" of an organization, while the "head" work was done by the stenographic substitute.

Men born in the latter days do not need stenos—although many claim they do, simply to prolong the prestige established by hiring stenos. Any man with fair command of English can dictate directly to the typist, and a better man can type as fast as the brain can formulate. Honesty in such matters will no doubt shift the job structure, which is the last thing most office workers (especially supervisors) want. Therefore the old machinery of stenography will last until it dies its natural and inevitable death.

Ponderosa pine man

The late G. A. Pearson, who worked in Forest Service from 1908, and died in January 1949, was a ponderosa pine man, though his 40 years study of the species covered but a fraction of a rotation. He died before he completed writing up his life work for a monograph, but it was prepared for publication by George Meagher. It is "Management of Ponderosa Pine in the Southwest," Agriculture Monograph No. 6.

Oat varieties to plant

Planting resistant varieties is the best insurance farmers can take out against losses from new stem rust race 7 on the 1951 oat crop. So say USDA oat specialists H. C. Murphy and T. R. Stanton. Common oat varieties resistant to this new disease threat are Marion, Andrew, Eaton, Rainbow, Ajax, and Mo. 0200. For more on this subject and about races 7 and 8 of stem rust, *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address end of last column, as always, and ask for No. 178.

Cooky-sweet sorghum

THE RECENT introduction of improved sweet sorghum varieties by plant breeders of Kansas and the USDA is contributing heavily to the development of sweet sorghum dehydration. Several new sorgo varieties are especially sweet and are ideal for dehydration. They range from early to late in maturity. Early varieties, such as Ellis, mature in August, but the later varieties such as Kansas Collier and Kansas Sourless, mature in September and October.

Dehydrating promises a better way of feeding sweet sorghum, one of the best forage crops in the central Great Plains. Much of the sugar in the sorghum stalk is lost when the crop is cured into fodder or made into silage. Imported blackstrap molasses is often added to sorghum fodder to increase the palatability and energy value of the roughage, or is used in mixed-feed supplements. Research has shown that sorghum retains its natural sugar when the entire crop is dehydrated. This reduces the need for molasses. The dehydrated product may have 30 percent or more of sugar and is as sweet as cookies.

Agricultural manpower situation

If this subject interests you, you may want to *write* the editor of *USDA* and get the statement made by Edward J. Overby, before the Senate Armed Services Committee, January 18. Ask for No. 158.

National Forest acreage burned

Though there were fewer fires on the National Forests in 1950 than in 1949, the acreage burned was 70 percent greater. If you want further statistical details on this subject as to how the fires were caused and the areas in which they were most prevalent, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 166.

REORGANIZATION, REORIENTATION

If you want the details about the reorganization of USDA's soil conservation and research activities and the reorientation of its staff and administrative structure for defense mobilization needs, *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address at end of last column, last page, and ask for No. 415.

Lady of the palms

DR. MIRIAM L. BOMHARD of the Forest Service almost certainly knows more about palm trees than any one else in USDA, though she is listed as a range conservationist on the FS rolls here. Educated at the University of Pittsburgh, all the way from B. S. to Ph. D., she taught botany and zoology at Tulane, developed an absorbing interest in nearby flora and fauna, and ultimately became so fascinated by palm trees that she circumnavigated the globe to study them. She was coparent of the New Orleans Society of Plant Scientists, later joined our Bureau of Plant Industry staff in the Division of Forest Pathology, then became a botanist, then an ecologist in FS. This led to an intricate complex of activities which includes the identification and tabulation of thousands of plant specimens from western and southeastern range lands, and a great deal of "palmistry."

Dr. Bomhard has also served as taxonomist for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. She was a member of a vegetable-oil mission to Venezuela, studying palm specimens brought back by its other members. Her publications are in various fields. She is a coauthor of "The Range Plant Handbook," and contributed a chapter, by request, on Palm Oils and Waxes in "New Crops for the New World." Her most recent publication is "Palm Trees in the United States." She is interested especially in palms of economic importance. In FS, Dr. Bomhard has become a sort of one-woman information bureau, reading palms (and other forest and range plants from various parts of the world) for graduate students, professors, specialists of all sorts, and citizens generally.

When interviewed, Dr. Bomhard was studying seeds from a quail's stomach trying to find an answer to a wildlife man's query. The man wanted the seeds in that stomach identified, so that he could cultivate the plant to entice more quail. Her ability in foreign languages is substantial, she is a member of many varied professional societies, and her personal charm is incontestable.

USDA HISTORY

"Some Landmarks in the History of the Department of Agriculture," by T. Swann Harding, has been slightly revised and reissued. This is a 111-page processed history of USDA and is available from Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics or, if you wish, *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address end of last column as always, for a copy.

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Appraising personnel

WORK CARRIED on by the late Karl Wedell, who directed the Bureau of Industrial Psychology, University of Wisconsin, and his coworker, Prof. Karl U. Smith, as well as by certain University of Michigan psychologists working independently, has shown that the more experienced a personnel manager is, the less likely he is to judge applicants or their attitudes correctly. A group of psychologists was especially selected for their variety of experience in industrial interviewing and training. Then, by interviewing 200 employees of a particular concern, they sought to determine the degree of job satisfaction and the worker's opinion of the company. Results were compared with those obtained from written questionnaires and other knowledge of the employees.

It was found that the most experienced interviewers proved least able to assess the two factors mentioned. This checked the conclusions reached by the Michigan workers. During long periods of training and experience the interviewers drift away from the methods by which the average person thinks and arrives at attitudes and opinions. Their judgments freeze as they grow older in years and experience. They fail in projecting themselves into the feelings and expressions of others. Finally, they become certain that their own notions about predicting human behavior are correct and inviolate!

Brief but important

Poultry Advisory Committee

If you want to know the lines of work under the Research and Marketing Act suggested by the Poultry Advisory Committee during its recent meeting, *write* editor of *USDA*, name and address at bottom of the last column, and ask for No. 151.

BDI wants twins

The Bureau of Dairy Industry is looking for purebred or high-grade identical twin Holstein heifer calves, and will pay a reasonable price for them, to be used in dairy nutrition studies. The animals offered should be under a month in age. Contact E. C. Leffel of BDI, USDA, Beltsville, Md.

Firewood

Forest Service says the best time to cut firewood is when the tree limbs are bare. It should be allowed to season through spring and summer for use the following fall and winter. High-value timber trees should not be used for fuel. Trees of small timber value, or crooked, deformed, or decay-injured, make fine fuel, and cutting them improves the woodland. A standard cord of heavy woods like longleaf pine, hickory, oak, beech, rock elm, hard maple, black locust, or sweet birch, supplies as much heat as a ton of coal. This would take 2 cords of lighter woods such as white pine, spruce, cedar, redwood, poplar, cypress, or basswood.

Food and nutrition

If you are interested in recommendations for USDA research in this field made by the Food and Nutrition Advisory Committee, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 131.

Fruits and nuts research

If you are interested in types of research under the Research and Marketing Act recommended by the Deciduous Fruit and Tree Nuts Advisory Committee recently, *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address end of last column, and ask for No. 205.

Tree planting on private lands

There was a tremendous increase in tree planting by private owners during fiscal year 1950. It brought the total acreage of reforested land in the Nation up to 7.2 million acres. For statistical and other details on these plantings, aided by Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, Extension Service, and other agencies, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 215.

Penicillin in mastitis infection

New Technical Bulletin No. 1027 is entitled "Effectiveness of Penicillin in Eliminating Mastitis Infections in the Bureau of Dairy Industry Herd," and is by W. W. Swett, L. A. Burkey, Cecelia R. Buckner, P. C. Underwood, C. A. Matthews, and M. H. Forhman of the BDI. Procure as you do other printed publications, as often explained in *USDA*.

Education in farmers co-ops

A new Farm Credit Administration publication is Miscellaneous Report 140, "Educational Practices of Farmer Cooperatives," by Oscar R. LeBeau. This study discusses the educational techniques farmer cooperatives consider valuable in building and maintaining good relations with members. While the supply lasts, you may procure copies from the Director of Information and Extension, Farm Credit Administration, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

"It's hotter than you think"

This was the caption of a recent newspaper editorial. It appears that the Smithsonian's scientists took 16,000 measurements on top Mount Montezuma, in Chile, and found that the quantity of heat the sun has been pouring on us has increased a quarter of 1 percent during the past 20 years. This has had a distinct effect on temperatures and climates all over the world, though the New York City office of the Weather Bureau views all this with a somewhat skeptical disdain.

Logging book

If you want a simple guide to the harvesting of timber, you will find it in the well-illustrated "Northeastern Loggers' Handbook," USDA Handbook No. 6, by Fred C. Simmons, logging specialist at the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Upper Darby, Pa. It is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., at 75 cents. It runs 164 pages, covers logging in a simple detailed way, and saw timber, pulpwood, fuel wood, veneer wood, and other forest products are included.

Treat grain for better stands

It is especially important this year to use grain seed treated with effective fungicides, at a cost of only a few cents an acre, to prevent smuts and other controllable diseases of wheat, oats, and barley, and seed rots and seedling blights of corn and sorghum. Fortunately much seed, such as hybrid corn, is treated at the source and there are also large-scale treating plants where farmers may take seed for treatment. But make sure the proper chemicals are used at recommended rates per bushel; ask the county agent about this. Such treatment often does away with the need for replanting.

Seer wins out

Earl A. Seer, Production and Marketing Administration, was selected for the twelfth Administrative Intern Program which began February 5. He was 1 of 20 Federal employees selected from 56 nominations (4 from USDA) by 14 agencies.

Emsweller gets medal

Dr. Samuel L. Emsweller, USDA plant scientist, has been awarded the Jackson Dawson Medal by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society "in recognition of his important scientific contributions to the field of commercial floriculture and the nursery industry."

Cotton

We note here two processed publications available from Production and Marketing Administration, USDA: "Important Facts Concerning Materials and Facilities for Cotton Production in 1951" and "Facts About the Present Cotton Situation and the Need for Increased Production in 1951."

Remnant sale!

So many of you wanted the following that we have had them rerun: "Some Ideas on Rapid Reading," "When You Introduce a Speaker," and "Light and the Office Worker," all offered earlier in *USDA*. To get copies *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address at end of last column back page, and request by title.

Colombo Plan

You may have read of this plan for the cooperative economic development of south and southeast Asia—India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Federation of Malaya, Singapore, North Borneo, Sarawak, and Brunei, in particular. If you want details, write British Information Services, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City 20, and ask for the informative illustrated booklet entitled "New Horizons in the East."

Publications

The lead article in Agricultural Economics Research for January is "Farm Mechanization Research in the South," by Grady B. Crowe of Bureau of Agricultural Economics, which issues this informative and well-edited publication. * * * Circular No. 270 is "Orchard Insects of the Pacific Northwest and Their Control," by E. J. Newcomer of Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Procure as you do other printed publications.

Pass the chicken sausage

Extension Editor A. J. Sims of Tennessee who, along with ye editor, discovered the mountains of Florida many years ago, now announces that poultry research workers at Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station have produced link, smoked, and bulk chicken sausage. It offers a fine outlet for mature birds, retired roosters, or chickens with pin feathers, skin abrasions, or bruises. E. O. Essary and O. E. Goff of the poultry department did the work. "Pass the chicken sausage, pappy!"

The whole bunch

Don't overlook the vitamins A and C in the outside leaves and stalks of celery; they are far more plentiful there than in the inside stalks or hearts. Recent research at Utah Agricultural Experiment Station has also shown that unblanched Pascal celery is considerably higher in carotene than the white, self-blanching kind. Celery has higher nutritive value if the whole bunch is utilized, leaves and all. While it is of special value raw or in salads, it is acceptable cooked and served with white sauce containing cheese.

About Point IV

The February issue of "Foreign Agriculture," published by our Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, contains an important group of articles on aspects of the Point IV Program, each by an expert.

Josephson heads forest economics

H. R. Josephson, assistant chief of the Division of Forest Economics, Forest Service, since 1945, has succeeded Edward C. Crafts, recently made assistant chief of FS, as its head. He entered FS in Berkeley in 1934, and is a native of Pennsylvania educated at Penn State and University of California.

"Chemurgic Research"

Under this heading, with the subhead "Utilization of Vegetable Waste Products and Finding New Uses for Farm and Plantation Crops," the "Empire Producer," published in London, for January–February 1950, ran some interesting and rather flattering comments about the work of the Regional Research Laboratories of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry.

National Agricultural Policy

"A National Agricultural Policy, For All the People of the U. S.," is a new $2.50 book from Harper & Bros., by Leonard Schoff. It offers a concrete program for the elimination of unprofitable farms and relieving taxpayers from the burden of maintaining full farm production. It grew from the findings of the Columbia University Seminar on Rural Living. Objective of the agricultural policy presented is to serve the interests of the entire country.

New head of Cornell

Chancellor Deane Waldo Malott of the University of Kansas, has been unanimously elected to head Cornell, succeeding Dr. Edmund E. Day, who resigned in June 1949 because of ill health. A native of Kansas, Dr. Malott graduated from University of Kansas and took his master's at Harvard Business School. Before becoming chancellor of University of Kansas in 1939, he was vice president of the Hawaiian Pineapple Co. in Honolulu, and an associate professor at Harvard Business School.

Briscoe honored

Sherman Briscoe, Office of Information, was presented with a laudatory plaque at the Farmers Conference annual dinner in Tuskegee, January 16, "for outstanding service in the field of agricultural journalism which has resulted in increased incomes for farmers, and brought their exemplary achievements before the American public." The plaque was awarded by the Tuskegee Agricultural Forum. Also honored was Paul Maris, retired head of the Farm Ownership Division, Farmers' Home Administration, with a portrait of himself painted by Charles C. Dawson, curator of the George Washington Carver Foundation.

Crop and feed loans settled

One job facing Farmers Home Administration on its establishment in November 1946, was to help farmers settle over a million crop and feed loans averaging about $121 each—1,017,317 loans to a total of $123,834,710 in unpaid principal. Today 3 out of every 5 have been settled, 604,542 loans having been wiped off as of December 31, 1950, thus reducing the total unpaid principal to $53,348,844. Compromise settlements or write-offs under provisions of Public Laws 518 and 731, were used in 476,616 settlements, the remaining 127,926 having been paid in full with accrued interest. During the period November 1, 1946–December 31, 1950, principal and interest payments amounted to $39,524,856. Principal written off through debt settlements during the same period totaled $43,810,126.

PISAE report

If you would like a four-page digest of the annual report of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address end of last column, as usual, and ask for No. 132.

American water policy

"A Water Policy for the American People" is the summary of recommendations from the President's Water Resources Policy Commission, Morris L. Cooke, chairman. It is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., at 15 cents. The entire report in three volumes is also for sale there. Volume I is $3.25 a copy.

Mohair grade standards

The Production and Marketing Administration is considering adoption of U. S. grade standards for mohair and, until June 30, is inviting comments from interested persons on the proposed classifications. These would be the first USDA standards ever adopted for mohair. Submit comments to the Director, Livestock Branch, PMA, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

B_{12}

Before it was identified, analyzed, and produced by fermentation, vitamin B_{12} had to be supplied in poultry and pig feed by high-priced fish and meat meals and dried skim milk. Now that this vitamin is available synthetically to add as a feed supplement, it is aiding mightily in increasing our supply of poultry and hogs by promoting faster growth.

Lindsey dies

Sterling Paul Lindsey, Jr., who left USDA at the end of August 1950, after about 4 years as deputy administrator of Farmers Home Administration, died January 21, in Brookfield, Mo., aged nearly 49. He had recently become president of the Security State Bank in his home town. He came to Farm Credit Administration in 1933, and, 2 years later, became assistant director, then in 1937, Director of FCA's Emergency Crop and Feed Loan Division, which work was placed in FHA in 1946. Mr. Lindsey was a native of Corning, Ark.

Tennessee D of A

"Farming and Youth," the thirty-eighth Annual Report of Tennessee's Department of Agriculture (1949–50) is a mighty proud job, and they are mighty proud of it. It is a handsome, well-illustrated, well-written book of 398 pages, and, on pages 208–209, you will find a fine tribute to Knox T. Hutchinson, the second from Tennessee to be USDA's Assistant Secretary. For Dr. Charles W. Dabney, Jr., resigned as president of the University of Tennessee to become the second person to hold the office on January 1, 1894. The USDA Library has a copy of this Tennessee report.

Importance of fertilizer placement

The placement of fertilizer in relation to crop seeds and plants in muck soil is highly important. Cooperative work by Michigan State College and USDA has shown that localized fertilizer placement increased the yields of Michigan-grown commercial onions by 55 percent over onions fertilized with grain-drill broadcasting equipment. Furthermore, 400 pounds of properly placed fertilizer was as effective as 800 pounds put on with a grain drill. Limited studies show comparable results with commercial celery, cauliflower, cabbage, table and sugar beets, carrots, potatoes, and parsnips. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address at end of last column as usual, and ask for No. 171.

Lehman moves

Don J. Lehman, a New Yorker who has for some time been associated with Office of Information and Office of the Secretary, has been named the Secretary's representative on the New England-New York State Interagency Committee set up to study land and water resources in that area. Five other Federal agencies as well as the States concerned will participate in the investigations and conferences.

Jump Award Committee

This year the committee to select the Federal employee to be given the William A. Jump Memorial Foundation Award consisted of U. S. Civil Service Commissioner Frances Perkins; Administrator Jess Larson of the General Services Administration; Marcellus Sheild, former clerk of the House Appropriations Committee; Executive Assistant Director of the Bureau of the Budget Charles B. Stauffacher; and T. Roy Reid, USDA's Director of Personnel.

"Farm Injuries"

Your attention is called to an article by this title in the New England Journal of Medicine, published in Boston, but available from the USDA Library, by Dr. John H. Powers of Cooperstown, N. Y. An analysis is made of 658 patients with serious injuries caused by farm accidents, 1929–48. The peak of incidence occurred during July and August, routine chores seemed to be the most dangerous farm occupation, falls were numerous, half the accidents took place in the barn or barnyard, fractures were common. Both the average period of hospitalization and the mortality declined very appreciably in the second decade studied as compared with the first. See the article for details.

Increased yields

Not all our yield gains have been in the cornfield, where productive corn hybrids have increased the crop 25 percent. But acre-yields of spring wheat have increased 20 percent in North Dakota and of winter wheat 15 percent in Kansas, over the past 25 years, mainly because of improved varieties and better cultural practices. Maine potato yields have gone up nearly 75 percent during the past 20 years, as a result of better varieties, heavier fertilization, larger plant populations, and more effective sprays. Sugar production in Louisiana has stepped up 25 percent through species hybrids, and 30 years of sugarcane breeding in Java have produced new varieties capable of yielding almost twice as much as the old. Indeed the rice yield in Japan has increased 70 percent during the past 65 years, mostly through use of improved varieties and more commercial fertilizer.

Costly merchant credit

A recent bulletin from the University of Vermont, "Costs of Rural Merchant Credit in Vermont," reports a study of 172 rural merchants, doing an annual business of 19 million dollars, two-thirds of it with farmers, and 70 percent of that on credit. The bulletin points out that the annual cost of extending credit for all of them was 22 percent of the average credit outstanding as figured on a monthly average basis. Because they were familiar with their customers these merchants often gave credit the borrowers could not obtain otherwise, though lack of understanding of credit costs on both sides of the transaction was a factor. Naturally customers given credit bore only a small share of its cost, the remainder being divided among all customers through payment of higher prices for cattle, farm machinery, feed, farm supplies, hardware, home and building supplies, groceries, and garage service.

It was a good story

We had a number of flattering comments on "L. H. Bailey Department" in *USDA* for January 3, but information filters in that, while both oldsters are indeed recovering, Liberty Hyde Bailey did not take a trip after his tangle with the revolving door, and is still recuperating at home.

Mahurin retires

L. T. Mahurin, since 1943 of the Office of Budget and Finance, has retired after 38 years of service, which began as a clerk on the Ozark National Forest, in 1912. Prior to joining B&F Mr. Mahurin was regional fiscal agent for Region 7, Forest Service, in Philadelphia.

Soil management

We have a two-page mimeographed sheet giving the views of Dr. F. W. Parker, assistant chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering—he heads the work on soils, fertilizers, and irrigation—on effective soil management. If you want a copy, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 231.

Emergency assistance

Secretary's Memorandum No. 1276, available from Secretary's Records Section, Office of Plant and Operations, is dated January 29, and urges USDA agencies, especially those with field offices, to render the Economic Stabilization Agency appropriate assistance in staffing field offices for the Price Control and Wage Stabilization Program.

Waste vegetable leaves as feed

The Eastern Regional Research Laboratory, Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, has shown that truck farmers and vegetable processors can convert leafy plant wastes into high-quality feedstuffs using rotary driers like those commonly used to dry alfalfa. If you want more details, *write* the editor of *USDA*, and ask for No. 254.

USDA Safety Council

The recently elected 1951 officers of the USDA Safety Council are John D. Rush, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, chairman; William K. Bing, BAE, first vice chairman; Richard B. Gossom, Jr., Production and Marketing Administration, second vice chairman; and G. Russell Cotner, Bureau of Animal Industry, secretary. The retiring chairman is Earl K. Wheeler of Soil Conservation Service.

The U kitchen

Those of you interested in this subject might like to know that Miscellaneous Publication No. 646 is "A Step-Saving U Kitchen," as designed by Leonore Sater Thye (J. Robert Dodge, architect, drew the plans) of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. Procure it as you do other printed publications, as often explained in *USDA*.

Changes in motion pictures

Sid Abel has resigned as chief of the Research and Planning section, Motion Picture Service, USDA, to establish his own script-writing organization, and has been succeeded by MPS script-writer Sid Schwartz. Boyd T. Wolff, who has been associated with visual education for 20 years, is a new MPS writer, and Editor Carroll A. Lewis, who has had more than two decades of movie experience—and was one-time editor of Hopalong Cassidy movies—is another new addition to the staff. Yet another newcomer is animator Vincent J. Eletto, a cartoonist of 18 years experience, who once did animation for the Terrytoons.

TCA as a weed killer

Sodium salt of trichloroacetic acid (alias TCA) is gaining importance as a killer of perennial weedy grasses. Tests show promise when made among TCA-tolerant crops like sugar beets, table beets, flax, alfalfa, and other legume crops. TCA kills off grass weeds, such as quackgrass, Johnson grass, and Bermuda grass. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 146.

Land reform

The Interagency Committee on Land Reform (State, Interior, ECA, and Army are represented, as well as USDA) is headed by Under Secretary McCormick. It originated in conferences between Secretary Brannan and the President, reflected by the former's address before the Land-Grant College convention last fall. Involved is a study of landlord-tenant relations, the promotion of the family-owned farm, rural credit, and cooperative buying and selling.

That breakfast egg

Information of value on the breakfast egg as source of protein, on breakfast combinations suggested by USDA nutritionists, and on the quantities of proteins we require and where to procure them—i. e. how much protein ordinary servings of common foods provide—appeared recently in USDA's Food and Home Notes. We have had the material rerun and, if you want a copy, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for the "Breakfast Egg."

Attracting Farmers

The lead article in Printers' Ink for December 15, 1950, was by Richard L. Edsall, and entitled "What Kinds of Ads Attract Farmers?" If you can get it at a library or from 205 East Forty-second Street, New York City 17, some of you might like to read it. We are, among many other things, told that farmer readership is attracted by catalog clarity, and big pictures—especially of products in use—as they too are businessmen, and they react like readers of business papers.

Maddock dead

Walter J. Maddock, who was North Dakota's State Director for Farmers Home Administration since the beginning, died at Bismarck, January 25, 1951. He had retired from FHA December 1, 1950, after a lifetime of farming, a decade in the North Dakota Legislature, almost 4 years as the State's lieutenant governor, and 6 months as its Governor. He had nearly 17 years of Federal service, first with the Farm Board, then AAA, FSA, and FHA. Born at Grand Forks, N. Dak., Mr. Maddock grew up on a farm, homesteaded in Ward County, and later purchased a farm in Mountrail County.

Food and Agriculture publication

Food and Agriculture Organization publication, "Efficient Use of Fertilizers," represents the joint effort of 36 internationally known workers in the fields of soils, soil fertility and management, and fertilizer manufacture and technology. It has been described by experts as "a very valuable contribution to the subject" and "a high-caliber achievement exactly suited to its purpose and probable audience." Single copies may be purchased for $2 from the Columbia University Press, 2960 Broadway, New York 27, N. Y. Quantities over 50 for educational purposes may be purchased at half price from Food and Agriculture Organization, Washington, D. C.

Matthews joins Extension

Joseph L. Matthews, administrative assistant in the Texas Extension Service, has joined the staff of the Federal Extension Service to fill the vacancy caused by the transfer of Douglas Ensminger to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. He will take charge of the Educational Research Section, Division of Field Studies and Training. He has had wide experience in Extension work, and has completed work for his Ph. D.

New device for prepackaging apples

A new device for prepackaging apples has been developed by the Washington State Apple Advertising Commission, under a Research and Marketing Act contract with USDA. The device packages the apples at the shipping point more quickly and economically than hand-packaging methods now used. If interested, write Press Service, USDA, for a copy of the report AIB 29, "Prepackaging Apples at Point of Production."

Handling potatoes

A Research and Marketing Act study carried on jointly by Production and Marketing Administration and the New York (Cornell) Agricultural Experiment Station, has shown that rough handling can double external damage to potatoes between shipping point and retail store. If interested, ask Information Services, Production and Marketing Administration, USDA, Washington 25, D. C. (Room 2608S, Ext. 5223), to send you "Deterioration of Long Island Potatoes in Marketing Channels."

More meat possible

Chief B. T. Simms of the Bureau of Animal Industry says that American stockmen can extend meat production beyond that reached during World War II largely because of improved stock and methods of disease control, better forage crops, the success of geneticists in developing faster growing animals, and improved renovation practices enabling stockmen to use hitherto unproductive land for forage crops. The improved situation is produced by many maturing segments of agricultural research.

USDA FILM PROGRAM

We have copies of a reprint from Business Screen (No. 4, Vol. 11, 1950) entitled "The Film Program of the U. S. Department of Agriculture." This is a fine illustrated job of 15 big pages dealing with the work of Motion Picture Service, Office of Information; it also lists available films and where to get them. The reprint is a credit to Business Screen, a compliment to MPS, and merits study by all interested in USDA's movie program of educational films in agriculture. To get a copy *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address end of last column as always, and request it by title.

February 28, 1951, Vol. X, No. 5

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1951

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR MARCH 14, 1951

Conservation

SECRETARY'S Memorandum No. 1278, February 15, dealt with coordination of USDA activities in the field of conservation. The measures introduced rest upon the existing powers of the Secretary, but Congressional leaders have been consulted freely, as well as representatives of farm organizations and other interested groups. The changes are designed to carry out the objectives of the socalled "Hoover Commission." These and other changes announced the same day and discussed elsewhere below, are designed to enable USDA to do its work more efficiently and economically, and at more convenience to the public. They also mark a first step toward the objective of single-county-headquarters for the USDA agencies serving farm people.

A single policy will hereafter govern all USDA soil conservation activities. The conservation programs of Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, and Production and Marketing Administration will be supervised by an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. They will jointly determine conservation practices and rates of payment. Continuous survey of the USDA farm-resource activities will be instituted by the Assistant Secretary. Field work will be unified. Personnel of SCS and PMA will be housed in the same buildings as soon as possible.

State organization will be patterned on the national, with the presidents of the land-grant colleges and the State directors of Farmers Home Administration being asked to participate, the State PMA chairmen being responsible for initiating the program, and the SCS State conservationists for all technical phases of permanent soil conservation work performed. The State PMA committees will continue to administer the ACP and the State conservationists to report to the Chief of SCS. SCS and PMA will jointly encourage the creation and development of farmers' Soil Conservation Districts. In counties, policies and programs will be decided upon jointly by the PMA committee and local SCS technicians, working with the governing body of the Soil Conservation District. The county agent and the FHA county supervisor will be invited to participate. The PMA committee will initiate the calling of meetings and administer the ACP, the SCS technicians directing the technical phases of permanent-type soil conservation work.

Forest Service field personnel will coordinate its work closely with other USDA conservation activities, and all SCS forestry activities that can be shifted to FS under present laws, or future amendments, will be placed there. FS will have joint responsibility with PMA in determining forestry practices and ACP payment rates thereunder, and will continue to administer the Naval Stores Program under PMA delegation of authority. The SCS will continue to recommend forestry or other land use on farms of Soil Conservation District cooperators.

Agricultural research

SECRETARY'S Memorandum No. 1279, February 15, dealt with the coordination of USDA agricultural research services. All research activities will be placed under the supervision of an Assistant Secretary, as was the case in 1889, when the first Assistant Secretary, Edwin Willits, appointed under the new law raising the head of the Department to Cabinet rank, was charged by Secretary Rusk with general control of scientific work. Willits' successor, Dr. George W. Dabney, Jr., had similar responsibilities, which he retained after the appointment of his successor as Assistant Secretary and until his resignation as supervisor of scientific and statistical work December 30, 1897. He was the last Assistant Secretary to have this responsibility.

Under the new arrangement the Assistant Secretary will maintain a continuous survey of research to determine, with the Secretary, such actions as are required to insure integration, economy, and effectiveness. Under him the Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics will be responsible for all USDA economic research and statistical activities, together with all cooperative relationships dealing with economics research. The Administrator of the Agricultural Research Administration will be responsible for all other USDA research and its cooperative relationships. He will also direct and administer the Office of Experiment Stations, USDA activities in connection with the Research and Marketing Act, the work of the several bureaus of ARA, and the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md.

Agricultural mobilization

SECRETARY'S Memorandum No. 1280, February 16, reoriented USDA agencies for agricultural mobilization purposes. It established a National Agricultural Mobilization Committee composed of the Secretary (Chairman), the Under Secretary, and the Assistant Secretary; the Administrators of ARA, CEA, FHA, PMA, and REA; the Directors of Ext and FAR; the Chiefs of FS, SCS, and BAE; the Governor of FCA; the Manager of FCIC; and the Solicitor. It established also an Agricultural Mobilization Policy Board composed of the membership of the Agricultural Research Policy Committee, created by the Research and Marketing Act, and the advisory committee to the Commodity Credit Corporation, created by the CCC Charter Act. Invitations to serve on the Board will be extended to the Director of Defense Mobilization, the Administrator of the Defense Production Administration, the Administrator of Economic Stabilization, and the Director of Price Stabilization.

There will be a State Agricultural Mobilization Committee in each State and Territory, and a County Agricultural Mobilization Committee in each agricultural county of the U. S. and Territories. The new committees will generally integrate the USDA's administrative and operational resources to meet defense objectives as promptly and efficiently as possible. State committees will include top USDA officials in the State, members of the State PMA committees, and officials of agencies outside USDA who accept the invitation to join—the State directors of extension, of the agricultural experiment station, of vocational agricultural education, and the State commissioner, secretary, or director of agriculture. County committees will in-

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clude, besides the top USDA officials stationed therein, members of the PMA county committees and, by acceptance of invitations, the county agent and a representative of the vocational agricultural teachers in the county. Chairmen will be the chairmen of the State and county PMA committees.

Farm prices

PRICES RECEIVED by farmers for many commodities have risen recently, and are now high in relation to their own history. But they have advanced only 21 percent since the outbreak in Korea, whereas tin has gone up 138 percent, lead nearly 50, chemicals about 27, and textiles 32 percent. Meanwhile farmers' costs have attained record highs, but corporate profits, wages, and average personal incomes are setting new records. Most prices of farm commodities to the producer are still below parity, but if all now below parity attained it, consumer food costs would rise less than 5 percent, making an over-all cost-of-living rise of 2 percent. Food prices have risen less than clothing and house furnishings.

Farm prices dropped 24 percent in 1948–49, while nonfarm prices and wages dropped little or advanced and, on January 15, prices received by farmers were still 2 percent below the January 1948 peak. Farmers' net realized income decreased 3 years in a row from 18 billion dollars in 1947, to 16.5 in 1948, to 14 in 1949, and to 13 in 1950. No other segment of the economy had such a severe economic set-back. Corporate profits after taxes are running 32 percent above 1947, and were 18 percent above for 1950 as a whole. In 1950, hourly earnings of factory workers were 18 percent above the 1947 level.

Food is still a better bargain for the average person than in prewar times. Those whose incomes have kept up with the average can buy with 19 percent of their disposable income the same diet that would have absorbed 23 percent thereof in 1935–39. True, many whose incomes have lagged substantially below the average are in serious difficulty. As for the farmer, he gets about 30 cents for the cotton in a shirt selling at $3.50 to $4.00; 3 cents gross for the tomatoes in a 16-cent can; 2¾ cents for the corn in a 19-cent can; a cent a pound for the onions sold in stores in November at 5.7 cents; and 2⅔ cents for the wheat in a 15- to 16-cent loaf of bread—which has risen nearly 2 cents since June 1950, though wheat, in January 1950, was only 16 cents a bushel higher than before the Korean outbreak.

While prices of manufactured items have increased partly because market supplies are limited to permit increased production of military goods, agricultural products, available in record quantities, have increased in price because demand rises as consumer incomes rise. But the public does not expect manufacturers to produce military goods at less than fair returns. It should not expect farmers to produce food at a discount either. The prices of farm commodities are not exempt from price control by law; they are all subject to control as soon as they reach a legally specified level. No ceiling may be established below the parity price, or the highest price producers received from May 24 to June 24, 1950. Ceilings must be high enough to permit fair processor margins. The prohibition against below-parity ceilings for farm products is not inconsistent with other legal price and wage provisions, nor with accepted Government principles.

Forest Products Lab

GEORGE M. HUNT is retiring as Director, Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wis., after 40 years of continuous service in Forest Service. He will be succeeded by Dr. J. Alfred Hall, hitherto Director, Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, Portland, Oreg., who, in turn, will be succeeded by Robert W. Cowlin, formerly chief, Division of Forest Economics at this station. Mr. Hunt is known internationally for his research contributions dealing with wood preservation, painting, gluing, and fireproofing. The work of Mr. Hunt and his associates at the Lab has saved private industry millions of dollars—the Lab's wood-preservation studies, for example, contributed to savings of 100 million dollars a year in railroad cross-tie expenditures alone, by reducing the volume of wood needed. A native of Oregon, he took his B. S. at University of California. He has been at the Lab since 1914, and its director for the past 5 years.

Dr. Hall entered the Lab in 1930 as a biochemist, then directed the Central States Forest Experiment Station, Columbus, Ohio, 1937–42. A graduate of Earlham College, with an M. S. from Indiana University, and a Ph. D. from University of Wisconsin, he majored in chemistry. He worked in private industry 8 years before entering FS. Mr. Cowlin is a native of Chicago with an M. S. from University of California, who has served at the station he will now direct since 1929. Dr. Hall is notable for important discoveries in new methods now used by the naval stores industry, and Mr. Cowlin for his forest inventories and his studies of forest taxation and land use.

Those housework blues

FREQUENT immersion of the hands in water tends to deteriorate the skin texture and cause dermatitis and infections. Psychologic fatigue brought on by the monotony of housework has a depressing effect and may produce neurosis. The housewife's hours are long, the demand upon her is continuous. She often carries heavy loads when shopping, laundering, or working about the house. Accidents are common. So reports Australia. Better home architecture and kitchen planning, training in the physical and psychological aspects of the work and in domestic science, more attention to footwear, and greater esteem for housework would be beneficial to the kitchen mechanic. This is an international consensus of opinion. In almost all countries there is a great awareness of the necessity for training women for housework and a realization that home training is insufficient.

This could go on and on for some length. It is a bare skimming of a long report on "Pathology and Hygiene of Housework," by Drs. Gerda Seidelin of Copenhagen and M. T. Cassassa of Turin, which covers pages 12 to 24 of the "Journal of the American Medical Women's Association" for January 1951. The report was derived from questionnaires, original surveys, and published articles in 14 foreign countries and the U. S. A general conclusion is that housework has not been made the subject of systematic statistical, experimental, and clinical research, but that it should be. Much more than housemaid's knee ails the housewife. Many of you who work in home economics and domestic science would derive much from this report. The USDA Library does not get the Journal mentioned, though it might borrow you a copy. You could also probably buy one by addressing the Journal at 136 Fourth Avenue, Nashville 3, Tenn., and enclosing 50 cents.

Rural power systems

Operators of rural power systems financed by Rural Electrification Administration bought a record of more than 7 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity at wholesale during the fiscal year 1950, or 17½ times as much as was purchased in fiscal year 1940. For more details, statistical and otherwise, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 362.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Are the prices of farm commodities unreasonably and disproportionately high in relation to the prices of other consumer goods, wages, and farmers' costs? Are they exempt from price control? Do farmers get special privileged treatment under the laws and regulations provided for inflation control? If you want detailed answers to these questions, we have them in a mimeographed statement by the Secretary. To get copies *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address at end of last column, last page, as always, and ask for No. 359.

Brief but important

Seed research

If interested in the recommendations of the Seed Advisory Committee for research under the Research and Marketing Act, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 373.

Sugarcane and sugar beet research

If you want to know the types of research suggested by the Sugar Advisory Committee for projects under the Research and Marketing Act, plus some related information, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 291.

Presidents

Dr. Harold W. Stoke, for the past 3½ years president of Louisiana State, has resigned and been succeeded by Lt. Gen. Troy H. Middleton (retired), who has been comptroller of the University. President Robert C. Clothier of Rutgers has announced his resignation.

Award to Dr. Potts

The Connecticut Tree Protective Association, at its recent twenty-ninth annual meeting in Bridgeport, conferred its annual Award of Merit upon Dr. Samuel F. Potts, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, for his "outstanding work in the development of mist sprayers and spray concentrates."

"Nebraska Irrigation Statistics"

This new bulletin giving statistics for 1945–48, has been issued by the State-Federal Division of Agricultural Statistics, A. E. Anderson in charge, and is by Director Rufus M. Howard of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and Inspection, cooperating with S. R. Newell, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, USDA.

Give dairy cows good roughage

According to Assistant Chief Ralph E. Hodgson, Bureau of Dairy Industry, U. S. dairy farmers could maintain the present level of production and also produce milk at lower cost by feeding their cows more high-quality roughage and less grain. We have a page and a half more details on this, mimeographed, also copies of a talk by Dr. Hodgson; if interested, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 278.

Crop-use research

We have a 2-page digest of the annual report of our highly decentralized Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, which operates four large Regional Research Laboratories located in or near Peoria, New Orleans, Philadelphia, and Albany (Calif.), as well as smaller laboratories at 11 other locations. If you want more information on advances in such research that give cusumers new and better products made from farm-grown raw materials, *write* the editor of *USDA*, and ask for No. 295.

When you fly

Field and other officials are reminded of the combined air-lines ticket office maintained for their convenience in room 1407, South Building, where they may obtain tickets, reservations, or information.

W. A. Wheeler active

W. A. Wheeler, PMA retiree and author of "Forage and Pasture Crops," is now editing an illustrated clipping sheet of instructive articles on farm practice for the National Garden Bureau, 210 South Desplaines Street, Chicago 6, Ill. The first issue dealt with grass-land farming.

Speed demons, attention

Typing-speed and self-teaching devices, such as speed-spurt drills, were demonstrated recently to Washington employees by George Hossfield, 10-time world champion typist, and Phillip Pepe, typing specialist from New York City College. Similar demonstrations may be had in the field by agencies which care to contact their local typewriter companies.

Information changes

Harold Lewis, formerly of Production and Marketing Administration and Agricultural Research Administration, has been named an assistant director of the Office of Information. He will be responsible for general supervision of press and special reports, as well as of special work on defense information. Associate Director R. L. Webster is acting director during the absence of Keith Himebaugh, who is recovering from a heart attack. Mr. Webster retains over-all responsibility for motion pictures and visual aids.

Industry advisory committees

Secretary Brannan announced February 13 the establishment of 17 industry advisory committees (members to be announced later) to consult with USDA on food distribution and related operations, additional committees to be established as need arises. Experience in World War II proved that such committees can greatly aid the Department in meeting emergency problems. Membership will be representative of independent small, medium, and large business enterprises and trade associations, and will reflect each industry's geographical spread.

Better grasslands

"Grasslands for Abundance" is a talk delivered by W. A. Minor, Assistant to the Secretary, at Memphis, on February 6. In it he explained what the grasslands program can mean in successfully meeting the challenge of sustained high-level production. There are also still available copies of the 4-page mimeograph on the better grasslands program. If you want copies of this material *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address at end of last column, back page, and ask for No. 283, which is the talk, or No. 2772, which explains the better grasslands program.

Dr. Rohwer's death

In *USDA* for January 31 there was an article on the first page about the appointment of Dr. S. A. Rohwer, Assistant Chief, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, as Special Assistant for Defense in the Agricultural Research Administration. On the evening of February 12, Dr. Rohwer was found unconscious in the East Wing of the Department and died soon after. He had served the USDA long and faithfully, entering it as a research entomologist in 1909. He was a native of Telluride, Colo., and attended the University of Colorado. His passing leaves a gap that can be filled with difficulty.

Home dem week

National Home Demonstration Week will be April 29–May 5.

Biochemistry

There is rather an interesting long article in the New England Journal of Medicine for January 17 (available from the Library) on the history and development of biological chemistry.

Festival of Britain

Widespread agricultural activities will form part of the Festival of Britain which opens May 3 and continues through September. For more details consult the British Information Services in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, or Washington, D. C.

Hutson in ESA

John B. (Jack) Hutson, former Under Secretary and top official also of the War Food Administration, is assistant for agriculture to ESA Director Eric Johnston; his first job was to organize the Food and Restaurant Division, Office of Price Stabilization, of which he is Director.

1951 production program

We have copies of a speech delivered February 7, by Under Secretary McCormick which deals with the 1951 farm production program and related problems. If interested *write* the editor of *USDA* (name and address end of last column, last page, as usual) and ask for No. 306.

Civil Defense Program

Secretary's Memorandum No. 1277, February 2, reads thus: "To carry out the purposes of Public Law 920, Eighty-First Congress, known as the 'Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950,' as it pertains to the responsibilities of this Department, and pursuant to the assignment of responsibility for general administrative matters to the Assistant Secretary, I am now requesting the Assistant Secretary to develop appropriate plans and to generally direct the Civil Defense Programs of the Department."

OPEDA

The Organization of Professional Employees of USDA has elected the following officers: B. Ralph Stauber, BAE, president; Julien L. Boatman, Ext, vice president; and Verna C. Mohagen, SCS, secretary-treasurer. New executive committee members are: John W. Asher, Jr., REA; Thomas H. Bartilson, BAI; Margaret S. Bryant, Lib; C. O. Henderson, Pers; Harry Irion, FS; and Walter M. Scott, AIC. Former President Bennet A. Porter, EPQ, automatically becomes a member also. Frederick V. Rand, chipper as ever and younger daily, continues as executive officer.

Garden program

Expansion of home-gardening and home food-preservation activities in USDA was announced by Secretary Brannan. The action followed recommendations of an advisory group which met in Washington recently at the Secretary's invitation. In approving the expanded program, Secretary Brannan announced that Cooperative Extension Service, Federal and State, would have responsibility for leadership. Individuals or groups desiring to cooperate locally in the program should get in touch with their county extension offices of their State Extension Service; national groups should contact the USDA. The six resolutions of the group, which were presented to Secretary Brannan are listed in release No. 305. If you want a copy *write* the editor of *USDA* and request by number.

Director Munson retires

Extension Director Willard A. Munson of Massachusetts has retired after 35 years of official service to agriculture in that State, where he has served as director for nearly a quarter of a century. He received a Superior Award from USDA in May 1950.

Herbicides

L. M. Stahler of Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering estimates that more than half the North American output, over 14½ million pounds, of 2,4–D and 2,4,5–T was used in the area covered by the North Central Weed Control Conference.

Cold storage research

If interested in the types of research projects under the Research and Marketing Act recommended by the Cold Storage Advisory Committee, as well as the constitution of the committee and so on, *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address at end of last column as always, and ask for No. 298.

Why Korea?

We have a statement by Dean Rusk, Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, explaining why the U.S. and other members of the United Nations are fighting in Korea. It comes especially recommended by Secretary Brannan. To get a copy *write* the editor of *USDA* and request the Korea Statement.

The right legume bacteria

Dr. Lewis W. Erdman, USDA bacteriologist, and Dr. E. A. Hollowell, USDA agronomist, had something to say recently about the benefits derived from inoculation of legume seeds with the right bacteria. If you want details, *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address end of last column, and ask for No. 328.

Locker-plant capacity

L. B. Mann of Farm Credit Administration has recently completed a study which shows that the estimated capacity in gross storage for perishable foods at zero temperatures, widely dispersed over the country, is 80 million cubic feet in 11,600 locker plants. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 309.

Do insecticides poison the soil?

You must have thought about that one often. It is a serious question. DDT loses its toxicity in the soil very slowly, and garden and field crops are in many instances sensitive to it. BHC is somewhat less stable in the soil; toxaphene and parathion are quite unstable. If you want a little more on this subject, as presented by Arthur M. Foster, who has carried on research on it for about 5 years at Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 351.

Best workers—worst gripers

A new study of industrial workers shows that the best producers are the most dissatisfied and gripe loudest. The best supervisors never pitch in and help get the work out, never explain or give reasons for changes in work methods, rarely suggest promotions but make them stick if they do, and are uninclined to stand up for those they supervise. Who made the study? There is the picture of our old friend, Rensis Likert, at the top, head of the Institute of Social Research, University of Michigan. The study is called "Productivity, Supervision, and Morale in an Office Situation" and is priced at $2.50 from University of Michigan Press. Or, for a digest of it, see Business Week for February 10, 1951; Library gets this magazine.

Kitchen tools

"Tools for Food Preparation and Dishwashing" is Home and Garden Bulletin No. 3. It covers the subject with good illustrations and clear text. Procure as you do other printed publications, as often explained in *USDA*.

Japanese beetle quarantine

A public hearing to consider whether the Federal Japanese beetle quarantine should be revoked or extended to include Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and North and South Carolina, will be held in Washington, D. C., March 30.

Dr. Cooley retires

Dr. J. S. Cooley, USDA plant physiologist, whose research has led to many improvements in the storage and transportation of fruits and vegetables—one of the best known being the use of oiled wrapper to control apple scald—has retired after 37 years of service.

"Mobilizing Our Farm Power"

This is the title of a speech the Secretary delivered January 30. It deals with rural electrification, the condition of our farm plant for meeting the emergency, USDA's efforts to help farmers get essential equipment, materials, and manpower, and related questions. For copies *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 229.

FHA borrowers progress

More than 27,000 families paying off Farmers Home Administration operating loans last year increased the annual value of their farm production from $1,779 to $3,151, or 77 percent, during the years (an average of 4) they were aided by supervised credit. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 344.

"Redi-chek" and "Simplex"

If you are interested in these two new grocery check-out counters which save time and space in checking out retail grocery orders, get from Office of Information Services, Production and Marketing Administration, "The Check-Out Operation in Retail Self-Service Food Stores," AIB–31. They were developed by USDA in cooperation with a national grocery chain as a Research and Marketing Act project.

Miss Bradley retires

Mary A. Bradley, technical editor of Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, has retired after nearly 31 years with the USDA, to operate a poultry farm in Wabash, Ind., her native heath. Educated at Franklin College and George Washington University, she entered old BPI as a research assistant in work on nematodes, was an indexer, and a bibliographical and technical editor in Office of Information, 1928–47, and has since been with EPQ. She edited four issues of the Index to USDA publications, one running almost 2,700 pages.

Exit cotton-field weeds?

Experiments carried on at Stoneville, Miss., by scientists of the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station and USDA, show excellent weed control in cotton fields. Best returns came from 3 herbicidal oil treatments followed by 5 flamings which required fewer than 4 man-hours of labor, cost only $15.10 an acre, and gave practically complete control of pigweed and morning-glories, while reducing crabgrass to 17 plants per 100 feet of row. By comparison, standard cultivation and hoeing, which gave incomplete control, required 55 man-hours of labor per acre and cost $17.51. Yield and quality of cotton was about the same in both cases.

Bees

"Bees, Their Vision, Chemical Sense, and Language," a little book by Karl von Fisch of the University of Munich, is factual, readable, and fascinating. If at all interested in bees, get hold of it. The USDA Library has a copy. It is also available from Cornell University Press, Ithaca, N. Y., at $3 a copy.

Conserve farm machinery

On February 13, the Secretary issued a statement urging American farmers, with the aid of industry, to keep their farms in good shape to meet the Nation's defense needs by conserving machinery, equipment, and repair parts. If you want more information on this *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 371.

New pea and bean huller

A new labor-saving pea and bean huller, especially adapted to use in community canning and frozen-food locker plants, has been developed as a Research and Marketing Act project, and is described in Circular No. 856, "Pea and Bean Huller for Use in Locker and Community Canning Plants." The work was done by agricultural engineers of USDA and the University of Georgia. Get this as you do other printed publications; the editor of *USDA* has no supply.

Cull a hero

S. E. Cull, a transit inspector of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, recently rescued from drowning a boy who fell through the ice while skating, then vanished from the scene so rapidly that his identity had to be determined from his car license plates. He did report the incident to the police, who called later to commend him for heroism and quick thinking. The incident occurred at Freeport, Long Island, N. Y.

Wide rows and small tractors

G. H. Stringfield and L. E. Thatcher of USDA, working cooperatively with scientists at the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, have developed a new pattern for growing corn, wheat, and meadow crops in sequence, that is especially adapted to conditions in the East and to use of small-tractor or horse-drawn wheat-seeding equipment. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA* (name and address end of last column, last page), and ask for No. 314.

Federal accountants

The Federal Government Accountants Association was formally organized on September 14, 1950, primarily to unite professional accountants in the Federal service, to act as means for free interchange of ideas among them, to improve Government accounting and auditing, and to promote education in this field. Provision has been made for nonresident members. Interested Washington or field employees can contact Stephen B. Ives, FGAA, Box 53, Washington 4, D. C.

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR MARCH 28, 1951

Cash awards

THE FOLLOWING individuals have received cash awards for adopted suggestions during the period of January 1 through January 31. (Detailed information concerning the suggestions may be secured from the Bureau Efficiency Award Committee):

Bureau of Animal Industry—WOODROW F. MONROE, South St. Joseph, Mo., $25.

Forest Service—CARL F. ARBOGAST, Rhinelander, Wis., $10; LEONARD M. BUTRYM, Springfield, Mo., $10; NORMAN H. CONRAD, Duluth, Minn., $70; STAFFORD H. LARSON and GORDON M. DAUGHARTY, Kalispell, Mont., joint award $30; EDWARD R. STOLTZ, Rhinelander, Wis., $25.

Office of Experiment Stations—F. PATRICIA NASH, Washington, D. C., $10.

Production and Marketing Administration—JEAN A. BANDY, Portland, Oreg., $90; JACOB W. BERNSTEIN and HOWARD R. GORMLEY, New York, N. Y., joint award, $260; JAMES P. CLEARY and ELIZABETH I. POPHAM, San Francisco, Calif., joint award, $20; MOSE GOLD, Atlanta, Ga., $25; PHILIP A. HANNEMA, Chicago, Ill., $45; CHARLES E. MARTIN, Athens, Ga., $40; MARTHA D. PALMER, Washington, D. C., $20; MICHAEL M. PECORA and JOHN L. SEVER, Chicago, Ill., joint award, $80; ANN D. PRATT, Washington, D. C., $45; F. ROY STUTZMAN, Washington, D. C., $10; MILDRED H. TERRY, Washington, D. C., $10; WESLEY S. WHIPPLE, Portland, Oreg., $10.

BUY DEFENSE BONDS NOW!

Savings Bonds have become Defense Bonds. USDA is still below the Government average participation in bond buying, though a larger percentage of Washington employees are participating than in the field. The Secretary urges us all to buy Defense Bonds.

Farmers are interested in—

January "Advertising Agency and Advertising and Selling" carries an article on "Advertising to the Farm Market," by the managing director of an advertising research concern. The Library gets this magazine. But it might interest you to know that farm women, unlike city women, have a lively interest in tractors, trucks, fertilizers, and business-of-farming products, as well as in those things customarily regarded as in woman's domain. Advertisements which show products in use or how they will serve the family, help farming, or meet farm needs, with large pictures, realistic drawings or photographs, preferably depicting the product in use, seem to hit the target best.

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Award for allergen work

DRS. HENRY STEVENS, E Jack Coulson, and Joseph R. Spies of the Allergen Research Division, Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, are winners of the 1950 Hillebrand Prize, awarded by the Chemical Society of Washington for their outstanding contributions to the chemistry of allergens. The prize, consisting of a certificate to each recipient and $100 in cash, was presented at the Society's March 8 meeting. These three Department scientists have been working as a team in the complex field of allergen chemistry for the past 15 years. The value of their research was recognized by USDA in 1949 through a Superior Service Award to them and their coworkers in the Division. For special studies during World War II on allergens in chick-embryo vaccines, Drs. Stevens and Coulson received citations of meritorious achievement from the Surgeon General of the Army.

The Hillebrand Prize was presented to Stevens, Coulson, and Spies in recognition of their fundamental investigations of the complicated, proteinlike substances in agricultural products which cause allergic reactions. This work has been important to both agricultural and medical science. One of its practical results has been to allay public fear that cottonseed oil contained substances capable of producing allergic symptoms in persons sensitive to cottonseed proteins. Their research showed that the potent allergen present in cottonseed is not carried over into cottonseed oil, which most of us consume almost daily in salad dressings, margarine, and other foods.

USDA WHEN YOU RETIRE

If you still want to get *USDA* regularly after you retire, just write the editor, name and address always at end of the last column, ask, and you shall receive. If you are a retiree already getting *USDA*, don't bother.

Packers and stockyards

THE PACKERS and Stockyards Act, approved August 15, 1921, was designed to regulate the practices of packers in interstate commerce and of stockyard owners or operators, commission merchants and others, operating at the yards. Initially enforced by an independent Packers and Stockyards Administration, abolished in 1929, the function went to Bureau of Animal Industry and then, in 1939, to Agricultural Marketing Service. The law is now enforced by the Livestock Branch, Production and Marketing Administration. Under it, supervision is exercised over the operations of 70 terminal stockyards, 250 livestock auction markets, 2,200 commission firms, 2,800 dealers, and some 2,000 packers. Marketing specialists are permanently stationed at the major public markets, and periodically visit all others to correct abuses. They observe day-to-day operations to be assured that:

The facilities and services provided to market patrons are adequate; the charges assessed for yardage, feed, and selling and buying services are reasonable and nondiscriminatory; all consigned livestock is sold in open competition on the basis of its merits; the weighing of the livestock is accurate; full and correct accountings are furnished consignors and buyers for whom commission merchants act as agents; and the stockyard companies, market agencies, dealers, and buyers subject to the act do not engage in unfair, deceptive, or discriminatory practices. Hundreds of complaints are filed annually by producers and other market patrons; these are investigated and, if the facts warrant, the claims are settled. Periodically some 800 stockyard and 1,000 packer scales are tested and inspected. Proposed yardage, feed, and commission charges are analyzed to assure that they are reasonable and nondiscriminatory.

Laws such as this are demanded by the public which insists upon the services rendered. Enforcement of this law has done much to improve the services and facilities furnished market patrons. Great savings have been instituted because monopolistic control over the yards was broken, while yardage charges, feed costs, and commission rates have been reduced, and agents now render complete and accurate accountings to their clients. State regulatory laws have been enacted in many cases to fortify the Federal statute. Millions have been spent in improving facilities. Unfair trade practices have been curbed widely, and speculation in consigned livestock by commission-merchant personnel has been controlled. Further savings and improvements are in the cards. And this is but one of the many regulatory laws enforced by PMA, which has other duties too numerous to mention besides.

Farmer-engineer

ABOUT 19.5 billion man-hours of farm labor are used in all farm work today. The heaviest single user, accounting for 3¼ billion of those hours, is the milk-cow enterprise; then come corn, cotton, and poultry, in order. These four enterprises use more than 40 percent of all the man-hours of farm labor. But the total time now spent on the corn crop is less than 60 percent of that a third of a century ago, while production has risen 15 percent. Man-hours devoted to wheat are about half what they were before World War I, though production has risen by two-thirds. Cotton takes only half as many man-hours now, largely because of acreage decline. Wheat takes 2.5 percent of the total direct labor and accounts for over 9 percent of gross farm production; cotton takes 12 percent and contributes only 6 percent of total production. We are cribbing from the new Bureau of Agricultural Economics bulletin, "Gains in Productivity of Farm Labor."

In 1948, our farmers raised about 90 percent more total crops per labor-hour than in 1910—over 3⅓ times as much wheat, 2¼ times as much corn, once again as much fruit, 75 percent more cotton, and 30 percent more hay. Before World War I it took 35 hours to grow and harvest an acre of corn yielding 26 bushels; the figures are now 24 man-hours and 35 bushels. Replacement of horses and mules by tractors tells much of the story. The increased availability of electricity in rural areas tells much, too. Included also is the big increase in use of mechanical corn pickers, grain combines, milking machines, and other labor-saving equipment. *The farmer is an engineer now, highly dependent upon electric power and industrial production for his larger output.* In 1910, there were a few more than 24 million horses and mules on our farms; these increased to an all-time high of 27 millions in 1918, then dropped to fewer than one-third that by 1948. During the same 39 years tractors on our farms rose from a mere thousand to 3½ millions, and automobiles and motor-trucks invaded farms all over the land.

We produced 191 percent more food grains per man-hour in 1944–46 than in 1910–12. Other increases were 87.3 percent more for feed grains, 79.1 for fruits and tree nuts, 58.1 for vegetables (except truck crops), 49.9 for truck crops and garden products, 48.2 for cotton, 33.2 for sugar crops, 24.9 for hay, and 6.5 percent more for tobacco. The record in livestock is less impressive, and there has been a noteworthy increase in the proportion of the farmers' time spent thereon during the past 40 years. But there was a 2-percent reduction per year in man-hours required per unit of breeding livestock between 1937–39 and 1944–46.

Compared with 40 years ago a man-hour of farm labor now produces twice as much farm output for human use. Practically all the rise in farm output per man-hour during that period has occurred since World War I, though the U. S. increase was at an annual rate of 1.7 percent for the period 1910–46. During World War II the annual rate of increase was more than twice that for the period as a whole, and 7 times the annual rate of increase during World War I. During the past 40 years crop production per man-hour increased at twice the average annual rate for all meat animals and animal products, most of the gain taking place during World War II. There has been both a decrease in man-hours per acre and a rise in crop production per acre, mechanization being the chief factor in producing the former. But there have been significant increases in milk per cow, eggs per hen, and production per livestock breeding unit. In many instances increases in labor productivity in agriculture have exceeded those in industries, including plants where farm products were processed.

Pecking order

YOU HAVE no doubt heard that hens have a pecking order, a sort of social arrangement which permits the most belligerent old gal to peck any other hen in the group, and runs down step by step until one poor pacific bird can be pecked by any hen there. A. M. Guhl of Kansas State is among those who have made a study of this interesting social behavior among the primary egg producers. Not long ago a waggish agricultural attaché sent the editor this further observation on pecking orders:

> Poultry protocol is not so vastly different from that evolved by diplomats. Flocks become organized socially on a "peck-order" basis. Newcomers to the flock disorganize the social structure completely until it has been redetermined who should peck whom. Protocol perquisities amongst fowls may be more realistic since the mating pattern of the flock is thus determined. Roosters that enjoy the highest rank in the social order mate more often and sire more chicks than do those of subordinate rank. High-ranking hens, however, are very scornful of males and mate less often than those in the lower social strata. Maybe USDA poultry experts could arrange for resident agricultural attachés to study this entire matter intensively at the Agricultural Research Center!

Atomic energy

THE NINTH semiannual report of the Atomic Energy Commission devotes a little over a page to agricultural research. The range of such studies extends from the use of radiotracers to investigate the proper placement of fertilizers, through basic research on the genetics of molds, the speed with which plant nutrients are transmitted from plant roots to leaves, and the effects of radiation on plant growth and on animal and plant heredity, to fundamental life processes like photosynthesis, the functions of vitamins and amino acids, and the role of trace mineral elements required by plants and animals.

Experiments continued at the Brookhaven National Laboratory on the effects of heavy radiation on crop plants. There was no indication that radiation could improve growth rates or yields, but plenty that large dosages cause marked damage. But information may come ultimately on the plant mechanisms that control growth and yields, genetic mutation rates, and resistance to infections. The USDA and the AEC have cooperatively produced many tagged fertilizers and shown how widely various crops differ in their ability to use different compounds of phosphorus and other fertilizing materials from the soil.

It has also been verified that oak trees frequently graft to one another at the roots, a finding in which radioactive tracers were used, which may lead to an explanation of how oak wilt disease spreads. Radioactive weed killers have been prepared and used to extend our knowledge of the living processes of plants, and to study the way in which they absorb nutrients via their roots and transport and deposit them as needed. It has been found, for instance, that radiophosphorus tends to concentrate most heavily in the newer leaves of the squash. Radioactive selenium is being used in South Dakota to study the selenium poisoning of cattle from plants grown on soils containing this element. The bisoynthesis of milk constituents and the metabolism of ruminants such as cattle are being investigated by the use of compounds tagged with radioactive carbon. These show that micro-organisms break plant material down in the ruminant stomach into short-chain fatty acids, primarily acetic, which are used directly in milk synthesis. Studies continue on many phases of the mineral metabolism of cattle, sheep, swine, and chickens.

Buttermilk ice cream

WHEN OUR Bureau of Dairy Industry announced its buttermilk ice cream several citizens leaped out of the shrubbery to insist this was nothing new. One, indeed, said a druggist sold it to him when he was a child 50 years ago in Newport News, Va., and it was the best ice cream he ever ate. D. H. Williams of BDI emphasizes, however, that he and his associates made no claim that buttermilk ice cream, per se, was new. See the article on "Concentrated Buttermilk in Ice Cream," by Williams and associates in August 1950 Journal of Dairy Science. The emphasis in their work was upon their improved process for preserving buttermilk solids derived from sweet cream, in the form of sweetened condensed buttermilk, useful in making ice cream. They also showed that neutralized sour-cream buttermilk does not produce high-quality ice cream. But ice cream containing buttermilk solids is delicious—superior to the same sans buttermilk.

One reason buttermilk ice cream has not been popular in the past is probably that manufacturers had no satisfactory sources of high-quality sweet-cream buttermilk. Storage problems associated with spray and roller-dried buttermilk may have prejudiced its use. BDI hopes sweetened condensed buttermilk will help solve the preservation and distribution problems and make these desirable milk solids available to ice cream manufacturers everywhere. As to Newport News 50 years ago—probably little butter was then derived from sweet cream. Could the druggist's product have been a sherbet, possibly somewhat tart, in which the acidity of not strictly "sweet" buttermilk would have been unobjectionable?

Food facts

"FOOD MARKETING Bulletin" is a title that has become well known in New England during the past year. This pack of educational material is the supply train which brings new food facts first thing each week to Extension agents in every county in New England and to many other people who can relay the information to consumers. Suggested newspaper stories, radio talks, and demonstrations are made available to Extension personnel for adaptation to local conditions. There is a section reporting on food items that are good buys in New England markets. Supply, price, selection, care, utilization, and food value of a seasonally important food are featured each week. All this is done to improve food shoppers' buying practices.

Charles Eshbach, Lucy Sheive, and William Good prepare this material each week. After a year or more they feel they have made a good start, but that much more needs to be done in developing sources of food-marketing information, processing it, and putting it in form for use. Assisting 9 million people attain greater nutritional and dollar values for their food money is a challenge worthy of our best effort. Many favorable reports show that New England consumers are finding this educational program a useful and profitable service. Headquarters for the New England Extension Services' Marketing Information Program are in Boston.

Gene jostling

COLCHICINE is a poisonous drug derived from the autumn crocus or colchium. It has the remarkable power of modifying the normal chromosome divisions in plant cells, doubling their number. Since chromosomes carry heredity via the smaller genes, a so-called polyploid plant with extra chromosomes differs from and may be superior to related plants with the normal number. Occasionally colchicine kills the plant; at times it modifies some but not all the plant's tissues, such partly altered plants being known as "chimeras," because normal tissue is likely later to outgrow the altered cells, the plant reverting then to normal.

In this work small soft tissue cuttings are rooted in the greenhouse, then the soil is washed from their roots and they are placed in a solution of colchicine just strong enough to cause chromosome doubling. They are removed after 8 hours, the drug is washed from the roots, and the plant undergoes a 16-hour recuperative period. Repetitions of this treatment promotes chromosome doubling, though this does not always happen and failures occur. The polyploid plants are very useful for breeding work or propagation. Often two plants will not cross or hybridize unless they have the same chromosome numbers. Some wild plants with certain superior qualities or disease resistance will not cross with our ordinary crop plants unless their chromosomes can be doubled. Polyploids are often created directly in hopes of improving or intensifying certain good qualities. This work, which started as so-called pure research, has assumed immense practical importance in the field of plant industry.

Work with magazines

ONE EMPLOYEE in the Office of Information runs a magazine service which last year served 130 national magazines, the home departments of over 30 regional farm magazines, and many magazine editors and free-lance writers who were working on articles about research and other activities of USDA. More and more magazines and individuals request this service to insure accuracy by getting their facts checked or to get ideas for articles. Work of the office also includes conferences with editors in New York, Philadelphia, and Washington D. C.; arranging interviews between writers and USDA subject-matter specialists; and supplying editors and writers with annual reports, bulletins, press releases, pictures, and information by phone or letter which relate closely to their particular lines of interest and activity. When feasible, magazines are notified months in advance of forthcoming releases and popular publications on subjects within their field of interest, such advance notice making it possible for them to come out with their stories about the same time the daily newspapers cover the subjects.

Fact sheets are prepared on various subjects—for instance, on the production in Latin America of such commodities as rubber, fibers, coffee, and cinchona in connection with USDA activities under Point IV. A mimeographed Food Letter giving facts on supplies and prices and a monthly list compiled by the Production and Marketing Administration of foods expected to be plentiful 3 to 6 months in advance, is prepared and sent regularly to food editors of around 70 national magazines. In many instances this office accomplishes the objective of having the magazines publish USDA informational material in well-prepared and accurate form, which is an economical adjunct to USDA's own publications. In no instance, however, is any effort made to influence opinion other than by producing the requisite facts and other information desired. Miss Josephine Hemphill is in charge of this work.

New publications

New Technical Bulletin No. 1020 is "Gains in the Productivity of Farm Labor," by Reuben W. Hecht and Glen T. Barton of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and a very illuminating affair it is. New Statistical Bulletin No. 95, also from BAE, is "Feed Statistics, Including Wheat, Rye, and Rice;" this is the eleventh edition of a processed publication intended to suplement the Feed Situation and the Wheat Situation reports.

USDA publications

AN ACT OF CONGRESS approved by President Lincoln, May 15, 1862, established the Department of Agriculture. The act stated that the "general designs and duties" of the new agency "shall be to acquire and to diffuse among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture in the most general and comprehensive sense of the word." As a result of this mandate to diffuse or disseminate information, the USDA began almost immediately to issue publications on agricultural subjects. But it was August 1, 1895, when Secretary Morton authorized that there be set aside from funds provided in the act for the purchase and distribution of valuable seeds, $30,000 for the preparation, printing, and publication of Farmers' Bulletins. Such popular publications had been suggested by his predecessor, Secretary Rusk. These bulletins were, however, now to be distributed by Members of Congress.

The first special appropriation for the printing and distribution of Farmers' Bulletins was made in 1896, and it carried a provision that two-thirds of the total number printed be distributed by Members of Congress. The appropriation act of 1901 increased this proportion to four-fifths, and every agricultural appropriation act since then has carried an item to cover the Farmers' Bulletins. These are to be especially adapted to the interests of the people in different parts of the country and prepared in popular form. Today, besides the Farmers' Bulletins, other series of publications appear—Leaflets, Home and Garden Bulletins, Agriculture Information Bulletins, Agriculture Handbooks, Statistical Bulletins, Technical Bulletins, unnumbered publications, and so on. But ample authority for the preparation, publication, and distribution of all of them is to be found in the original organic act establishing the USDA. Congressional distribution of these publications amounts to more than 4 million annually.

Yield-boosting

Hybrid corn is a bright and shining example of yield-boosting, but not the only one. Nor is such genetic research the only route to achieving boosts in yield. Proper treating of peanut seed before planting, with one of the newer insecticides, can boost yields 25 percent. The inoculation of legumes with the right kind of bacteria produces more nitrogen in the plants and in the grasses that may be growing with them, more protein per acre, better grazing, and better hay. The proper treatment of corn, sorghum or rice seed before planting often prevents replanting, which is doubly costly in labor and in seed. The late cutting of alfalfa also prevents waste because early cutting thins the stand and lowers the protein.

Youth and REA

ALTHOUGH with electricity a modern farm has a standard of living far above that of a few years ago, fewer people live on farms now than 40 years ago. Back in 1910, one out of three Americans lived on a farm; today, about one out of every five. Without the help of electricity and modern equipment these fewer farmers could not produce the ever-increasing quantities of food we need.

Many plans are in operation to stop the erosion of young people from our farms. Memberships in 4–H Clubs of the Cooperative Extension Service continue to grow, and the 1,900,000 boys and girls now enrolled come from rural areas of all 48 States. Young farmers are learning that any machine on the farm, ordinarily turned by hand, can be operated with a small electric motor at little cost. Rural Electrification Administration and REA-financed co-ops have free bulletins to help farmers get the most from their motors for operating farm equipment, farm shop tools, and farm machinery by electricity. 4–H rural electrification projects, under way in many rural communities, are helping young folk understand their role in the output of better quality products. The young learn from electrification advisers, home demonstration agents, and county farm agents how to make more profitable and practical use of their power-line service.

School lunches

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMS operate in 48 States and 4 Territories, serve over a billion and a quarter meals to 8,655,000 school children in a year (10.5 percent more participants in fiscal 1950 than in fiscal 1949), and are good business for local communities. For the School Lunch Programs spent 181 million dollars in local food stores and markets during 1949–50 and local purchases should attain 214 million dollars worth during the 1950–51 fiscal year. Trends also indicate an increase of 164 million in meals served this fiscal year.

The USDA gave the schools 176.5 million pounds of food last fiscal year of which 51.3 million pounds were of high nutritive value purchased by USDA to supplement deficiencies in the children's diets: Concentrated orange juice, peanut butter, dry beans, canned tomatoes, and tomato paste. Foods donated to participating schools as surplus commodities included dried eggs, nonfat dry milk, cheese, butter, frozen turkeys, sweetpotatoes, fresh apples, canned cherries, cranberry sauce, and honey. The Production and Marketing Administration has responsibility for USDA's part in the Program.

Of the meals served from 64 to 67 percent are what is known as the Type A Lunch. This is a balanced meal containing one-third of the body's daily nutritive requirements. It includes one-half pint of milk; 2 ounces of lean meat, poultry, fish, or cheese, or one egg, or one-half cup of cooked dried beans or peas, or 4 tablespoons of peanut butter; three-fourths of a cup of vegetables, or fruit, or both; one or more portions of bread of some sort made of whole-grain cereal or enriched flour; and 2 teaspoons of butter or fortified margarine.

William Saunders

IN "THE YANKEE EXODUS, an Account of Migration From New England," by Stewart H. Holbrook (Macmillan at $5 a copy), Luther Calvin Tibbetts, a native of New England who went to Riverside, Calif., at 50, to grow grapes and oranges, is celebrated as the "Seedless Orange Man." The full story is told on pages 161–63. Tibbets is said to have written the Commissioner of Agriculture, reported to have been William Saunders, for USDA publications, whereupon Saunders interested him in trying to grow the seedless oranges which had come to him via small orange shoots from a woman in Brazil. Tibbetts was markedly successful. However, William Saunders never was Commissioner of Agriculture.

In late 1873 when Tibbets is said to have hitched up and driven 65 miles to the nearest express office to get his plants, returning to set them out in March 1874, the Commissioner of Agriculture was Frederick Watts, a Pennsylvanian of Welsh extraction, who had been a railroad president, a judge, and a scientific farmer instrumental in the introduction of the McCormick reaper. Watts took office August 1, 1871, when already 70 years of age, and served until June 30, 1877. He did not give the Department too much attention, was rather more frequently absent than present, and depended on trusted subordinates. He was the first USDA head to give attention to our timber supply.

William Saunders, however, a rather fiercely pious-looking fellow with an impertinent goatee, was born in Scotland, changed from studying for the ministry (he looked the part) to horticulture and, in 1844, came to this country to manage the estate of Johns Hopkins in Balti-

more. He later became horticulturist and principal gardener for the Department of Agriculture. He planned the park system of Washington, D. C., and supervised the setting out of 80,000 trees in the city. He introduced the navel orange from Brazil and induced others to plant and grow it here, founding an industry possibly more valuable to California even than Hollywood! He also first imported camphor trees and got southern growers interested. He was cofounder of the Patrons of Husbandry, or the Grange, and served USDA until his death in 1890.

Opportunity in USA

AS A BOY of 12 Raymond Brown of Eutaw, Ala., began raising a calf on his father's cotton farm. He gradually increased his herd to 11, then bought an old jalopy and began to haul calves to market for himself and his neighbors. By the time he was 20 he owned a new truck and made regular trips to cattle markets as far away as Birmingham. The next year he married and he and his bride scraped together enough to make a down payment on 40 acres; sale of timber off the land enabled them to finish paying for it. They began to raise hay for their livestock and a few acres of cotton. When rain took the cotton crop, income from sales of cattle tided them over and they learned the great basic lesson: *Never count on one crop.*

Today the Browns own 1,300 acres and rent an additional 6,000, devoted to pasture, woodland, cotton, and corn. Mr. Brown is now 39 and his tenants handle his cotton. His beef herd has expanded to 200 brood cows and 8 purebred bulls—6 Herefords, 1 Brahman, and 1 Angus. The Browns sell about 180 head of cattle a year and, in 1945, sold $10,000 worth of calves at one time. They have 600 acres of improved pasture, at the county agent's suggestion, and a nice watering pond Production and Marketing Administration helped them dig. The Browns buy and cut timber off other farms, starting in 1940 with one portable sawmill they were stuck with when the owner defaulted on a note they had signed. They now own 4 such mills and one mill may gross as much as $8,000 in 1 month. They own 8 logging trucks, 4 lumber trucks, 2 cattle trucks, and 4 tractors, say $50,000 worth all told. They have built and equipped a modern home located back from the highway on a 480-acre plot.

Mr. Brown has shown what initiative and private enterprise, backed by brains, can do in democratic America. He has become one of the largest Negro cattle raisers in his region, according to State Extension Leader W. B. Hill.

Research to application

IN *USDA* for April 25, 1949, we told about some remarkable fundamental research by F. B. LaForge and M. S. Schechter of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. In 1935, LaForge and Haller began an investigation of pyrethrins I and II, the two toxic constituents of pyrethrum so long used as an insecticide, with the idea of synthesizing them or at least something just as good and perhaps better. These investigations continued for 12 years with various collaborators and certain research workers in England also made important contributions in the field. Finally, there resulted three important revisions in the original formulas for the compounds and two additional insecticide constituents, cinerin I and II, were discovered.

Since these were of somewhat simpler structure than the pyrethrins, investigations were undertaken by Schechter, Green, and LaForge in the effort to synthesize them. Success was achieved in 1948, and numerous analogs were prepared which, when esterified with the natural chrysanthemum acids of pyrethrin flowers, furnished some insecticidal substances superior to those in the natural flowers. At last one was found and prepared that equaled or exceeded the mixture of natural pyrethrins in insecticidal action when tested on houseflies. This was announced in 1949, and deliverance from importing pyrethrum seemed at hand. Considerable interest was manifested by several insecticide manufacturers, and they began adapting the process to a large scale.

By 1950, the first commercial production of about 2 tons of the allyl homolog of cinerin I (known as alletrin) became possible, and it has proved to be an extremely effective compound. Although the synthesis is complicated and involves some 12 steps, it has been proved that the synthetic product can be produced and sold at the price of natural pyrethrins now imported mostly from Kenya, East Africa. Pyrethrum has been employed largely in the manufacture of aerosol bombs (perfected in EPQ) for the Armed Forces, but it has recently been decided to place orders for some two million of these bombs to contain allethrin. These will be used by the Armed Forces, but civilian use of allethrin will also probably increase.

Brief but important

Director Dayton

James W. Dayton, Massachusetts agricultural agent leader since 1943, has become associate dean and Director of Extension for that State.

M. S. in extension education

The graduate school of Louisiana State University has approved a graduate major in agricultural extension education leading to an M. S. degree.

Marshall Plan

A new illustrated booklet, "The Marshall Plan, a Program of International Cooperation," is available from the Advisory Committee on Education, Economic Cooperation Administration, Washington 25, D. C.

Miss Randle of Sol

Miss Margaret K. Randle has been designated chief of the personnel section, Office of the Solicitor, to fill the vacancy created when Thomas M. J. Crowley went with the Department of the Navy.

New illustrations head

The new head of the Illustrations Section, Office of Information, is Elmo White, a native of Florida with long experience in commercial art, motion pictures in California, and the Government Printing Office. He succeeds Joseph Stevenson who retired recently after 51 years of service, a chronological record that rather awes Mr. White.

Red cedar litter helps

Recent studies of eroded, abandoned land in northern Mississippi by the Southern Forest Experiment Station show that the soil under red cedar litter is superior to that under nearby herbaceous cover, containing five times as much calcium and twice as much excess base for neutralizing soil acidity as soil under a legume-grass mixture.

Brooding in infrared

Tests of brooding chicks with infrared heat lamps, carried on cooperatively by USDA and Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station engineers and scientists, indicate that, in the future, use of this method may lower initial equipment costs and involve less work and worry for many of the Nation's poultry farmers. If you want a few more details on this *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 417.

Box board from straw

Drs. E. C. Lathrop and T. R. Naffziger of the Northern Regional Research Laboratory in Peoria have developed a new box board from straw to replace critical wood veneer now used in making wire-bound shipping containers for farm and industrial products. Engineers of the Stapling Machines Co., Rockaway, N. J., cooperated in design, fabrication, and tests of the boxes. For a two-page mimeograph giving more details *write* the editor of *USDA* (name and address end of last column, last page, as always) and ask for No. 424.

Haig and Demmon

Dr. Irvine T. Haig, who, since July 1944, has directed the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, Asheville, N. C., has joined the Division of Forestry and Forest Products, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. He has been succeeded by Elwood L. Demmon, a native of Philadelphia, and a graduate of Penn State with a Ph. D. in forestry from Yale, who has directed the Lake States Forest Experiment Station in St. Paul since 1944. Before that Mr. Demmon directed the Southern Forest Experiment Station in New Orleans, 1928–44; earlier he did research in rubber production in the Dutch East Indies and in Central America.

"Why Not Retire on the Farm?"

Belatedly and unexpectedly we received more copies of this special circular by L. G. Sorden of the Wisconsin Extension Service. If you still want a copy *write* the editor of *USDA* and request it by title.

Oilseed and peanut research

If interested in the kinds of research recommended for Research and Marketing Act projects by the Oilseeds and Peanut Advisory Committee, and related facts, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 427.

Serendipity

Did you know that serendipity is the quality that made a success out of a Miss Sell from Milwaukee who is billed as the "Incomparable Hildegarde?" Better look that one up; it might make a success out of YOU!

Miss Meador retired

Miss Carrie D. Meador of Farm Credit Administration has retired after 30 years of service which began in Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Federal Farm Board. She was in the Division of Information and Extension and received the personal good wishes of Governor Duggan for a long and happy future.

Salinity Lab

The name of the U. S. Regional and Rubidoux Laboratories, Riverside, Calif., has been changed to U. S. Salinity Laboratory, and Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering advises it will now service North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, as well as the western States as heretofore.

Tung

Tung was introduced here in 1904, when Consul General L. S. Wilcox sent the first seed from China to be planted in our Chico, Calif., Plant Introduction Garden. During the past 5 years tung orchards have produced an average of 16 million pounds of oil annually, but USDA plant scientist H. L. Crane says they can play an even more important part in meeting industrial needs for the toughest quick-drying natural oil known to man. For more details on tung research and production as given by Dr. Crane *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 439.

Heat kills sweetpotato rot

Working on Maryland Golden, grown on Maryland's Eastern Shore, J. S. Cooley and L. J. Kushman of USDA, have shown that treatment of the roots soon after digging at 110° F., killed all the black rot fungus in 24 or even in 16 hours, but was ineffective in 8 hours. The relatively high temperature does not affect the quality of the sweetpotatoes adversely nor lessen the value of the seed. So far the technique has been employed only on an experimental scale, but it looks as if it may greatly reduce or possibly eliminate losses from black rot during storage and marketing.

Soybeans

Interscience Publishers, Inc., 250 Fifth Avenue, New York City 1, has published a two-volume work, priced at $11 *per volume,* entitled "Soybeans and Soybean Products, Their Chemistry and Technology." It is a comprehensive treatment of the entire field, a symposium by experts, edited by Klare S. Markley of our Southern Regional Research Laboratory. USDA is also represented by W. J. Morse (retired), E. L. Burtis of Bureau of Agricultural Economics, L. F. Williams of the U. S. Regional Soybean Laboratory at Urbana, and M. E. Jefferson and Leo E. Holman of Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering at Beltsville and Urbana, respectively.

Returnable crates

"Full Use of Standard Returnable Lettuce and Cauliflower Crates" is the title of an illustrated article by A. Piper, in "Agriculture, the Journal of the (British) Ministry of Agriculture," for January 1951, obtainable from the USDA Library.

"Farm Policy Forum"

Secretary Brannan, Sherman E. Johnson of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and Gov. I. W. Duggan of Farm Credit Administration are authors of articles in this little vest-pocket publication from Ames, Iowa, for January. In general it is a good idea to keep up with this stimulating little monthly from Iowa State College Press.

FCA career program

You may have wondered sometime about how the Farm Credit Administration procures and promotes qualified personnel. On January 22, FCA issued a processed publication entitled "Farm Credit Administration Career Program," that you may procure from it which discusses both general policy and in-service placement procedures.

Women's Land Army

"Agriculture, the Journal of the (British) Ministry of Agriculture," obtainable from the USDA Library, for December 1950, celebrated the Women's Land Army of Britain, 1939–50, in article and pictured form. Some of you might be interested to read up on how these girls from offices, shops, universities, and domestic service in city, town, and country homes, were induced to serve on the land, and how well they did.

Commendation from Jones

"Land Bank Exchange of Ideas and Information," published by the National Farm Loan Associations and the Federal Land Bank of Houston, front-paged its February 16 issue with a highly commendatory note from Jesse H. Jones reading: "The statement of your 1950 earnings reveals that you are the most profitable banking institution in Houston and I might add make the least noise about it. I congratulate you upon your continued success. With all good wishes, sincerely."

This'll kill you

Dr. R. L. Beard, an entomologist at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, has found a poison secreted by a tiny wasp that is so powerful it can kill caterpillers a thousand times the size of the wasp, even when diluted 1 to 200 million. Although it has no immediate commercial value, study of its action may lead to more powerful insecticides than we have ever imagined. This wasp venom is 200 times more powerful than parathion and one drop of it can permanently paralyze 1,600 highly resistant caterpillars of the wax moth.

Did you know that—

Most New England dairymen could increase their net incomes from $500 to $1,000 annually by making full use of the latest and best technical information? One-third of the 100-percent, 40-year loans made by FSA and FHA since 1938, to enable tenant farmers to buy farms, have been paid in full, and many other borrowers are ahead of schedule? Taxes paid on real and personal property increased steadily during the past decade and, in 1950, again cost farmers more than any other tax? Nitrogen and potash supplies are up and superphosphates down for 1951? Truck regulations have been eased by the States, but are still an issue? If you want more information on any of these (and some other) topics get February 1951 "Agricultural Situation" from Bureau of Agricultural Economics and read it carefully.

Rice research

If you are interested in the recommendations for research under the Research and Marketing Act made by the Rice Advisory Committee, as well as other matters related thereto, write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 474.

Summation

In "Out of My Later Years" (published by the Philosophical Library, New York City) Albert Einstein thus summarizes his epistemology: "Physics constitutes a logical system of thought which is in a state of evolution, and whose basis cannot be obtained through distillation by an inductive method from experiences lived through, but which can only be attained by free invention."

Fatty acids

"Fatty Acids, Their Chemistry, and Physical Properties," is the name of a new tome (and we do mean "tome") by Klare S. Markley of our Southern Regional Research Laboratory. This is the first assembling in one English volume of our knowledge about the chemistry and physical properties of the fatty acids. Priced at $10, the book is issued by Interscience Publishers, Inc., 250 Fifth Avenue, New York City 1.

Dictation

George Bernard Shaw's secretary tells us that the great writer did not dictate. Instead he wrote his plays and books in shorthand, at which he was adept, and she transcribed. So good was Shaw's shorthand that stenographers at his publisher's and elsewhere could easily transcribe. Should supervisors not only learn to typewrite but also to dash off their work in shorthand so that any stenographer can transcribe? Or perish-forbid!

Soil Conservation Districts

If you are a little uncertain about what a Soil Conservation District is and how it operates, better read the speech Secretary Brannan gave before the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts in Oklahoma City February 20. The talk also contains other information of value. For copies *write* the editor of *USDA,* name and address end of last column, back page, as usual, and ask for No. 433.

Guayule project

The USDA project on guayule is at present a very small one authorized by the Munitions Board with funds provided by General Services Administration under the Stockpiling Act. There are plantings in California to produce seed for replanting in Texas to produce standby nurseries. This is being handled in California, contracts being awarded to nearby California farmers who meet the requirements to grow the stock seedlings. For further information see or write Dr. H. M. Tysdal, U. S. National Rubber Research Station, Box 98, Alisal Branch, Salinas, Calif.

Bancroft heads Statlab

Dr. Theodore A. Bancroft has been appointed head of the Statistics Department and Director of the Statistical Laboratory (USDA cooperating) at Iowa State. He is the permanent successor to Dr. George W. Snedecor, took his A. B. at Florida, his A. M. in mathematics at Michigan, and his Ph. D. at Iowa State. He taught math at Vanderbilt, Mercer, Iowa State, and Georgia, then was professor of statistics and Director of the Statistical Laboratory at Alabama Polytechnic Institute, 1947–49, before coming to Iowa State as associate professor in charge of courses in statistical theory, and acting as statistical consultant generally for college departments.

Rural manpower situation

For information on this we suggest you *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 482, a statement made before the House Agriculture Committee by Under Secretary McCormick.

Livestock research

If interested in the types of research recommended for projects under the Research and Marketing Act by the Livestock Advisory Committee, and related matters, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 443.

Lamb, mutton, sheep grades

Production and Marketing Administration asked comments by March 22 on proposals to change standards for grades of lamb, yearling mutton, and mutton carcasses, and for slaughter (live) lambs and sheep. The grade-change proposals appeared in the Federal Register for February 21.

"Man of the Year"

K. P. Ewing, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, has been selected "Texas Man of the Year for 1950" by "Progressive Farmer" for the part he played in the development of a more effective cotton-insect control program for the area. He has been engaged in cotton-insect-control investigations for EPQ for 30 years, all but 6 of which have been in Texas.

USDA honored by Haiti

The Republic of Haiti awarded USDA a silver medallion diploma for helping in an exhibit at the Port-au-Prince Bicentennial Exposition last year. It was transmitted to Secretary Brannan by Secretary of State Dean Acheson at the request of the Commissioner General of the exposition, and was placed on display in the patio of the Administration Building, USDA.

Aid for feeble flax

Flax is a feeble weed-fighter. It gives up in the face of competition. But tests in Arizona show promise that chemical weeding will work with flax, using 2,4-D in the amine form, a half-pound to the acre when the flax is 3 to 4 inches high. This kills the broad-leaf weeds, including nettleleaf goosefoot, mustard, and sourclover—also Punjab flax, alas—but in general is a success.

The horse shied

During February a saddlemaker, described as a "slight and quiet" man, was killed as he drove in a Victoria through Central Park, when the horse shied and vaulted upward. The saddlemaker meanwhile plunged out of the Victoria to his death. The incident involved the New York Herald Tribune in a minute description of Victorias as differentiated from Hansom cabs, and also in an explanation of the manner in which horse-drawn vehicles operate! Time marches on!

The wind

"The oldest voice in the world is the wind. When it murmurs in summer's leaves, it seems an idle trifler. When in the night it goes wandering by, setting the old house faintly to groaning, it sounds like a pilgrim that has lost the road. When you see it fitfully turning the blades of a mill lazily to draw water, you think of it as an unreliable servant of man. But in truth it is one of our masters, obedient only to the lord sun and the whirling of the great globe itself."—Donald Culross Peattie, "A Cup of Sky." Houghton, Mifflin, Co.

Definition

You hear the word so much that we thought it about time to tell you a neurotic is a person who thinks you mean it when you ask him (her) how he (she) feels. This may occur to a timid little fellow who wants a split personality because he is so lonesome.

Food refrigeration

"Some Aspects of Food Refrigeration and Freezing" is the title of a recent FAO Publication that covers the subject comprehensively and internationally. You may purchase it at $2 from the International Documents Service, Columbia University Press, 2960 Broadway, New York City.

Highway-transport barriers

"Interstate Barriers to Transportation by Highway," a new Research and Marketing Act study available from the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics (Room 3916S, Ext. 2253) gives the history and current status of the various State regulations affecting truck haulage.

Avalanche experts

Our foresters have had to become avalanche experts and learn how to release potential slides ahead of danger. Ski areas are also potential avalanche spots. Officials of Forest Service in charge must know how to predict snow slides and also how to bring them down safely with minimum injury to ski areas, mountain highways, railroads, and human beings.

More milk, less butter

The more fluid milk we use the less butter there can be. Butter production is off 20 and cheese about 10 percent as compared with a year ago, and this situation will probably continue through 1951. This drop in production has practically wiped out our stocks of butter and cheese, but the increased use of fluid milk will continue with further rises in consumer income.

Citrus cannery waste as feed

A new bulletin comes from the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, "Citrus Cannery Waste, Its Use and Disposition" (AIC–290), by Harry W. von Loesecke. Some 2½ million tons of citrus peel, pulp, and seed are produced annually from canneries and this material is a potentially large source of livestock feed and other useful products. Get the bulletin from the Bureau mentioned.

Farm report

Labeled "A Pageant Report," and entitled "Why Worry About the Farmer?", this discussion of the farmer, his problems, and his relation to the rest of us, in March Pageant (515 5th Ave., New York City 17) is unsually accurate and objective. The customary splenetic remarks so often regarded as essential to magazine discussion of this matter are conspicuous by their absence. Pageant is available in Libraries.

Regional 4–H Camp

The fourth annual Regional 4–H Camp for Negro farm boys and girls will be held August 21–28, at Arkansas A. M. & N. College, Pine Bluff, Ark., with Extension Field Agents John W. Mitchell and T. M. Campbell as camp director and associate director, respectively. Each of the 17 States wherein Negro work is carried on can send 4 boys and 4 girls to the camp, 2 of each chosen for project achievements and 2 for leadership.

Screw-worm control

A new brief processed publication is "EQ 335 and Other Wound Treatments for Screw-Worm Control." It was prepared by the Division of Insects Affecting Man and Animals and is available from the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

School lunches

"School Lunch Management in Relation to Nutritive Value, Cost, and Acceptance of Foods Served" (PA–114) is a new publication prepared by Margaret B. Dreisbach and Elizabeth Handy of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. Procure as you do other printed publications.

Snedecor's book

"Everyday Statistic Facts and Fallacies," by George W. Snedecor, published by William C. Brown Co., Dubuque, Iowa, last fall, is aimed at the general reader interested in the fundamentals of modern statistics. No mathematics required to read it—beyond elementary algebra (which you have forgotten).

Tobacco curing barns

Our agricultural engineers have shown that tightening the construction of tobacco barns both helps southern farmers do a better job of curing bright leaf tobacco and saves fuel and materials. If you want to know more about several of their recommendations based on research findings *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 410.

Weed control in onions

USDA scientists, working with those of Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, have developed a method of herbicide weed spraying that offers onion growers considerable savings both in cultivation and in the hand weeding required to produce a crop. Want to know more? *Write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address end of last column as always, and ask for No. 409.

Calibrate weed spray machinery

Our USDA engineers advise that frequent checking and calibration of farm spray equipment are necessary if the right quantities of herbicides are to be applied to weeds. Wear on parts of the sprayer, the speed of spraying, and the care taken in mixing herbicides with water all cause variations in spraying rates that can seriously affect results. For more details on the kind of checking and calibration needed, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 449.

Seaman A. Knapp's grandson

Bradford Knapp, Jr., is a grandson of the Seaman A. Knapp known best as the father of Extension Service, also as an educator, plant explorer, and generally fertile intellect. Young Knapp is located at the U. S. Range Experiment Station, Miles City, Mont., and entered Bureau of Animal Industry from Texas where he had taught animal husbandry. He went to Miles City in 1940, and is the author of several papers on various phases of raising beef cattle.

"Plant Growth Substances"

This is a hefty and comprehensive book from the University of Wisconsin Press, priced at $6, and edited by Folke Skoog. It covers the entire field, including history, the role of growth substances in plant metabolism, tissue response, practical application, vegetative and reproductive development, pathological growth, and vitamins and amino acids as growth factors. Each chapter is by an expert, the USDA being represented by Thomas Kerr, John W. Mitchell, and Frank E. Gardner. For an authoritative, up-to-date, and complete review of the subject, plus an ample bibliography, you could not now do better.

Two Turks

Agricultural information workers were addressed recently concerning the progress made in the Republic of Turkey by 2 men picked from a group of 28 who came from Turkey to study and observe in the United States for a year. The speakers were Akif Cakman, assistant director of agricultural services in the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture at Ankara, and Necati Kaskaloglu, who heads the Plant Insects and Disease Control Station at Izmir. For more information on Turkish agriculture or Turkey generally, write the Turkish Information Service, 444 East Fifty-second Street, New York City.

McArthur decorated

Not the General, but William McArthur, deputy director of the Grain Branch, PMA, received a decoration as Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor, February 15. Ambassador Henri Bonnet of France, in the formal notification, congratulated the recipient "on this highly deserved distinction granted by the French Government as a token of gratitude for the eminent services you have rendered to the cause of French economic recovery as Deputy Director of the Grain Division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture at the time when the problems of food supply were of such tragic importance to France." Mr. McArthur is a native of Iowa with a B. S. and an M. S. from Iowa State, who assumed his present position in 1945, after having been a farmer, a farm superintendent, and an Iowa State senator, and having served in positions of increasing importance in AAA and CCC.

Marketing

Dr. Carlton E. Wright, an economist, who works for Extension Service and Cornell in New York City, got quite a write-up in the New York Times Magazine for February 18, under the title "Marketing To Save Pennies," by Jane Nickerson. Citing New York City market prices for a certain day he drew attention to the fact that, whereas a quart of milk was 32 cents, 14½ ounces of evaporated milk containing the same nutrients was 12.5, and 3½ ounces of dry skim milk—all but the fat in the quart—was only 8.10 cents. Whereas 2 ounces of cooked wheat cereal equaled 2 of puffed wheat in nutrients, the former was 2.7 and the latter 7.10 cents. Whereas 1 pound of fresh oranges was 7 cents, 6 ounces of frozen orange juice cost 21 and 46 ounces of canned orange juice 42 cents—and the same nutritive value in all. Other statements in the article were of considerable practical interest, however surprising.

Nelson R. Boss

Nelson R. Boss, 54, Farmers Home Administration county supervisor at Flemington, N. J., who died January 19, 1951, had influence widely felt throughout New Jersey because every person hired by FHA to work in the State's county offices since 1946 had at least 1 week of training with him. He was working with 110 farm families with loans that enabled them to adjust their operations from uneconomic to economic farming; 18 other borrower families are buying their family-type farms. Over 300 farm families in his area considered themselves his "graduates," having reached the point under his guidance where they could finance their farming through normal channels. Seventy percent of the families who worked with Mr. Boss are dairymen, and their average per-cow milk production is about 700 pounds above the State's average. State FHA Director Chester J. Tyson, Jr., said this is largely due to improved breeding and pasture programs developed under the supervision of Mr. Boss.

Southern Lab note

Dr. G. E. Hilbert, Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, has announced that its Southern Regional Research Laboratory at New Orleans, will hereafter service the States of North Carolina and Tennessee as well as those previously within its territory.

Charlie Rogers moves

Charles E. Rogers has resigned as educational relations officer for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization to become director of education and information for the White House Conference on Children and Youth, with his office in Federal Security Building North. For 25 years Rogers headed the department of industrial journalism at Kansas State and for 4 years the technical journalism department at Iowa State. Some of his best students are now USDA information people. He was with the AAA Office of Information 1934–35, on leave from Kansas State, and has been associated with FAO since 1946.

Dickerman promoted

Murlyn B. Dickerman of Missoula, Mont., has been named director of the Lake States Forest Experiment Station, St. Paul, succeeding Elwood L. Demmon who became director of Forest Service's experiment station at Asheville, N. C. A native of Connecticut and a graduate of Connecticut State College with a master's in forestry from University of California, Mr. Dickerman entered FS in 1934. He has served as a junior forester in Missouri, at the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station in Upper Darby, Pa., in the Washington office of FS as liaison with OPA, with the UNRRA mission in Italy and Greece, and, since November 1946, as chief of the Division of Forest Economics in the Northern Rocky Mountain Forest Experiment Station at Missoula.

Ward B. White

Dr. Ward Benjamin White, who had headed the Division of Food, Food and Drug Administration since 1930, when it was in the USDA, died suddenly February 24. A native of New York State and a graduate of Cornell, he was chief chemist of the New York Department of Agriculture's food division when he accepted the appointment in Washington. He was a specialist on chemical methods for detecting food adulteration. Well-read, an acute and original thinker, with a delightful sense of humor ranging from the ironic to the sardonic, he was a worthy friend, a good companion, a scholar, and a modest gentleman. His unique personality made him outstanding among bureaucrats. His zeal for public service, perspective, tact, abundant humor, fundamental honesty, logical mind, and ability to use the King's English won wide recognition.

Good employee relations

In Printers' Ink for January 12, an advertising agency explained how it preserved good employee relations by setting up a committee representative of all employees and following its recommendations. Hours were set from 9 to 5, and observed scrupulously. After 3 months each employee gets 1 day vacation per month up to 10 business days, or 2 weeks off; but 10-year personnel get 3 weeks, and 25-year, a month. All with 1 to 10 years of service are guaranteed full pay for the first month of any illness, half-pay for the second and third months, with 10-year employees getting 3 months at full pay, backed by insurance taken out by the company. Additional hours off are given for shopping around Christmas and New Years. Promotion from within is stressed. Personal recognition is awarded each employee by management. The company provides a coffee room with free beverages where employees may eat lunch and relax. The plan works fine.

New publications

Agriculture Information Bulletin No. 35 was prepared in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, and is entitled "Customers Across the Border—the Farmer's Stake in United States-Canadian Trade." * * * Circular No. 33 from the Federal Experiment Station in Puerto Rico deals with "Growing Avocados in Puerto Rico," is by horticulturist Edward P. Hume, and presents many interesting facts about and illustrations of different varieties of this member of the laurel family. Procure as you do other printed publications, as often explained in *USDA*, the editor of which does not stock these.

Pepper

Pepper, the world's most important spice, now comes to the U. S. at more than $2.60 a pound, as compared with 10 cents a pound in 1946, largely because of Indonesian plantation destruction during World War II. Before the war that was the greatest pepper-growing area in the world; then followed India, French Indo-China, Sarawak, Siam, Madagascar, and Ceylon, in order. Through USDA cooperation some experimental pepper-growing is being undertaken in Ecuador and Nicaragua, but the U. S. is still getting less than half its normal supply. Black pepper is made from the dried fruit of the tropical pepper vine, white pepper from the seed of the berries left to ripen on the vine.

HONOR AWARDS

It is planned to hold the Honor Awards Ceremony at Sylvan Theatre May 15, at 10:30 a. m. (in case of rain, 2 p. m., May 15, or 10:30 a. m., May 16). The May 23 issue of *USDA* will list those to receive Distinguished and Superior Service Awards. The Board of Distinguished Service Awards consists of John H. Davis, executive secretary, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives; Civil Service Commissioner James M. Mitchell; Paul D. Sanders, first vice president, Southern Planter Publishing Co.; and Assistant Chief Max A. McCall, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. The Board of Superior Service Awards consists of Deputy Governor Carl Colvin, Farm Credit Administration; Associate Chief Erwin C. Elting, Office of Experiment Stations; Deputy Assistant Administrator H. Laurence Manwaring, Production and Marketing Administration; Kentucky State Farmers Home Administration Director Earl Mayhew; Administrator Joseph Mehl, Commodity Exchange Authority; and Regional Forester William S. Swingler, Forest Service. USDA Director of Personnel T. Roy Reid is recorder on both boards.

March 28, 1951 Vol. X, No. 7

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USDA
Employee News Bulletin
FOR APRIL 11, 1951

Ravenous immigrants

KLAMATH WEED, known in botanical circles as *Hypericum perforatum* and to ordinary folk as common St. Johnswort, is a pest in many California counties because it crowds out better forage plants on the range. But certain Australian beetles of the genus *Chrysolina* have such a passion for Klamath weed that they can hardly be induced to accept anything else. So, in 1946, a colony of 5,000 was imported to go to work on the weed. By 1950 it had supplied sufficient beetles for new colonies in all the 21 California counties afflicted with Klamath weed, and the first colony had spread to clear about 100 square miles of the range all on its own. The initial spread is afoot, but as colonies multiply and the drain on Klamath weed increases, the beetles take to the air and often fly as far as 3 miles to get their favorite herbage.

The beetle feeds actively on the leaves of the weed during the early spring, but goes underground for a rest when the heat renders the plant dormant. The first rains revive both plants and insects, and the latter feed greedily on the fall growth of the former, breed, and then sign off for a winter vacation. The weed is eaten so closely as to kill it, and many beetles starve for lack of it, as they refuse all substitutes but demand the genuine article. Two species of this genus have been introduced, one of which does not become so promptly active after the fall rains and does not multiply rapidly, but might prove useful in a locality where the rains were timed differently.

Underemployed rural families

Some of you might want to get the 72-page circular printed by the Joint Committee on the Economic Report for the Eighty-second Congress on the general subject of underemployed farm families and how their excess time could best be utilized.

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A cushy job

SINCE THE American people spend about 6 billion dollars annually for packaging the things they buy, packaging is a greater industry than steel, in monetary terms. Much of this tremendous outlay of money and materials goes for cushioning to protect packaged articles from damage during handling and shipment. Soft resilient materials are placed between the article packaged and the outer container to absorb impacts, vibrations, and shock, and may be composed of crepe cellulose wadding, wood-fiber felt, cotton wadding, excelsior, corrugated fiberboard, shredded paper, or sponge rubber. Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wis., has done much valuable research in the field of package cushioning, though there is still a great deal to be learned on the subject.

Most cushioning materials are forest products. The Armed Forces use great quantities of them in packaging expensive and fragile flight-control, radar, electronic, and other equipment. Incorrect use of cushioning can result in waste of materials, or shipping space, and extensive damage to the articles packaged. The Air Force and Signal Corps have sponsored extensive studies at the Laboratory. As a result, it is now possible to determine easily, by reference to alinement charts prepared for some 35 materials, the thickness of the material required, and the precompression needed to provide reasonable protection for articles of given size, weight, and fragility. These charts and related information are being incorporated into a cushioning manual especially prepared for the Air Force, but also used in developing Federal and military specifications for cushioning materials.

The doctors say

NOT LONG AGO Dr. Melvin T. Johnson, who heads the Division of Employee Health, Office of Personnel, spoke on health matters for a half hour at the Secretary's Staff Conference. He was interesting, humorous, and informative. He mentioned the well-known fact that while medical research progress has worked miracles in curbing the infectious diseases, far too little is still known about the causes, prevention, and course of the degenerative diseases that lead to heart and cerebral attacks, liver and kidney impairment, hardening of the arteries, and high blood pressure. Unfortunately the continuous intensive drive that makes a good executive also tends to foster ulcers, high blood pressure, and coronary thrombosis. Curb that drive to prevent these diseases and you tend also to ruin your executive. Extensive, expensive, and intensive periodical medical examinations are not always a panacea, at least for the individual examined, though they may tip the boss off to hunt up a replacement for him if he is in bad shape. Dr. Johnson enjoined moderation, jokingly remarking that while he was expected to give this advice few would take it—moderation in eating, working, exercising, and in recreation, with sufficient rest, sleep, and relaxation to maintain good health.

A few days earlier the eminent psychiatrist, Dr. Karl Stern of McGill University, gave one of the USDA Graduate School's lectures on aging and retirement, the first effort the School has made to offer training for retirement. He cautioned especially against the drift toward isolation and loneliness in retirees. In modern urban, industrial civilization the elders have been deprived of many functions they could readily perform in a simpler, more agrarian age. If, in addition, they tend during work life to specialize, neglect systematic recreation, and the joining of groups other than the work group, retirement may be deadly. However, retirement must be planned long in advance. It is not just a matter of suddenly trying to take up a hobby—piano playing, fishing, or bird watching. It is a matter of broadening our interests and engaging in church, public service, or other group activities years before retirement, so that the work group is not our sole real interest. We must become active participants not just passive recipients or observers in recreation as well as in

group efforts; we must engage in activities, not just "passivities" like listening to the radio or looking at movies or professional baseball. In fact, it would seem like a good idea to begin planning for retirement during early infancy. As the editor is 60 years late on this schedule the talk left him a bit melancholy.

Mr. Wickard on India

CLAUDE R. WICKARD, who heads Rural Electrification Administration, returned not long since from a 24-day tour of the world, including attendance at the World Power Conference, New Delhi, India. He praised information work generally, and especially the effective techniques used in one case to help in India, which had to begin with lessons in reading and writing provided patrons and members by farm credit co-ops. Next a newsletter was started, couched in simple direct terms and giving facts the readers wanted. This served both to inform them and to give them practice in reading. They were encouraged to send in suggestions and complaints, and they did, which also served to improve their newly acquired writing ability. This is only part of the good work instituted by Horace Holmes, former North Carolina county agent, and others who have been working in India.

All the 35 or more nations represented at the power conferences either have or plan rural electrification programs. They agree on the need and are greatly interested in hearing how to do the job. Though the Russian representative claimed that efforts to expand rural electric service were failures in capitalistic countries, Mr. Wickard was there to prove by REA that this was not true in the USA. India also has huge new water-power projects under way which can supply immense transmission facilities that should in time reach the rural areas where more than 80 percent of its population live and work. Today it is not unusual for a small city to have no light other than a dozen kerosene lamps, and no electric power whatever. Elsewhere dried dung is burned for light as well as heat for cooking.

Mr. Wickard feels that our information to other lands should include stories of our own struggles in the early years of our independence, the hardships we underwent, the pioneering done, and the fact that our people are industrious and thrifty, so as to counteract the glamor and spendthrift impressions foreigners often glean from our luxury magazines and movies. He also stresses the vital necessity for sending considerable wheat and other grains to India for famine relief, and the long-time desirability of attacking the root cause of famines with all the skill and science modern agriculture can muster.

News on cow's eggs

ON DECEMBER 19, 1950, a heifer calf was born in Wisconsin that marked an epoch and made history. It resulted from the first successful transfer of a fertilized egg (ovum) from one cow to another. The work was done cooperatively by the American Foundation for the Study of Genetics, the University of Wisconsin, and the Bureau of Dairy Industry (participating with Research and Marketing Act funds). The cow that was the natural mother was treated with a hormone injection designed to make her release a large number of eggs from her ovary at once, instead of the usual one. She was bred artificially, slaughtered 5 days later, a single fertilized egg or ovum was removed that was scarcely visible to the naked eye, and was then transplanted surgically to a second cow which had been brought to exactly the same stage of the reproductive cycle by the use of hormones. The calf mentioned developed from that transplanted ovum.

This egg-transfer technique, performed on rabbits as long as 60 years ago, may be of greater use in solving technical problems concerned with the infertility of cattle than as a practical means of increasing the production of cattle. Many difficulties must be solved before the transfer can be made easily and on large scale. To obtain maximum benefit, donor cows must be induced to produce an increased number of fertile eggs or ova. Some satisfactory transfer method not involving surgery is required. Adequate techniques of producing, storing, and handling fertile eggs must be developed. Today there is no way of telling whether cows that fail to breed are infertile because their ova are abnormal or because their reproductive organs are incapable of properly maintaining and nourishing fertilized eggs. The technique of transplantation should throw considerable light on basic problems related to the reproduction of cattle.

Harry Hensley

Harry Hensley, retired Farm Credit Administration economist, died about the middle of March, aged 61. He spent 24 years with the Cooperative Research Division. A native of Missouri, he graduated from the University of Missouri, then took advanced study at University of Minnesota, American University, and Harvard.

DOCUMENTS REVISED

The April 1 edition of *USDA* Document No. 6, "Important Recent Achievements of Department of Agriculture Scientists," is ready for distribution. Get it to find out what our research workers have been doing in ARA, PMA, BAE, FAR, FCA, FS, and SCS. Because of the Department reorganization and reorientation announced the middle of February, it became necessary to revise *USDA* Document No. 1 to render it current. This new edition of the "Origin, Structure, and Functions of the U. S. Department of Agriculture" is now ready for distribution. To get copies *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address always at end of last column, back page.

Brief but important

Vegetable research under RMA

If interested in the types of research projects recommended for work under the Research and Marketing Act by the Vegetable Advisory Committee, and related topics, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 524.

Copper in spray

Did you know that about 50 million pounds of copper sulfate, containing about 20 million pounds of actual copper, is used annually to spray potatoes against late blight? No wonder the Kennebec and Cherokee potatoes, which are highly resistant to late blight, are so much prized.

Sart sorgo

Sart, a new sorgo variety for sirup production, with tall stalks, stout stems, and high juice and sugar content giving large yields of good-quality sirup, has been released by USDA and the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 517.

Harbine barley

Harbine, a winter barley suitable for combine harvesting, has been released by USDA and Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station. It carries considerable resistance to leaf rust and some to other leaf diseases, and appears to be highly resistant to five races of loose smut. Originating as a selection from a composite cross made by the late H. V. Harlan, USDA barley expert, it derives its name from "Harlan" and "combine."

"Foreign Agriculture"

The March number of this excellent monthly isued by FAR contains two informative articles many of you should read: "Communist Formula For Land Reform," by James O. Howard, who heads FAR's Information Division, and Secretary Brannan's report on the "Montevideo Conference," where he headed the U. S. delegation. Obtain copies from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

Work hours

Secretary's Memorandum No 1284, March 5, directed the heads of agencies and offices in the Washington metropolitan area to maintain skeleton staffs to handle calls from the public, other agencies, and Members of Congress, on Saturdays from 9:30 a. m. until 1:30 p. m. The regulations pertaining to overtime and compensatory leave will apply, of course, with preference given the latter. Hours may be adjusted later as experience proves necessary, with approval of the Office of the Secretary.

New Hampshire forests

The Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Forest Service, Upper Darby, Pa., has released a report entitled "Forest Statistics for New Hampshire," one of a series of such reports giving the results of a Nation-wide forest survey. Copies may be obtained from the Station.

Soil conservation in French

William X. Hull sends along a processed bulletin in English and in French, with illustrations and maps, entitled "Soil and Water Conservation in the United States." Prepared in Soil Conservation Service to tell what soil conservation is, who guides the program, and where and how it is done, it is intended primarily for the use of our many foreign visitors.

Repr. Hope on marketing

On February 12, Representative Clifford R. Hope, of Kansas, delivered an address on "A Visualized Program for Marketing." During the address (one of a series sponsored by the USDA Graduate School), he also discussed the history and effects of the Research and Marketing Act. If interested, you can get a copy of the address from the office of Dr. H. C. Trelogan, Office of the Administrator, Agricultural Research Administration, USDA.

A hazardous occupation

"Farm Accidents," an editorial in the Journal of the American Medical Association for February 24, 1951, indicates that farming is a hazardous occupation indeed. Five studies of farm accidents are cited and analyzed. The farmer is a planter, lumberjack, carpenter, machinist, plumber, builder, animal trainer, and more in one. The increasing mechanization of farms expands his opportunity to get hurt. Read the Journal editorial for more details; the Library gets this publication.

Veal and calf grades revised

Effective March 10, both carcass and slaughter grades for veal and calves were revised in line with a proposal of January 29, 1951. For veal and calf carcasses previous Choice and Prime grades were combined as Prime, Good became Choice, a new Good was established to include meat from the top half of old Commercial, the remainder of Commercial remained in that grade, while Utility and Cull went unchanged. Changes for live or slaughter vealers and calves comprised combining old Choice and Prime as Prime, renaming old Good as Choice, setting up a new Good grade to include the top half of animals formerly graded Medium, and renaming the remainder of old Medium as Commercial and Common as Utility, while Cull remained unchanged. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA,* name and address at end of last column as always, and ask for No. 568.

PMA-FCIC Staffs, Note

Secretary's Memorandum No. 1288, March 30, announced the transfer, effective that day, of Administrator Ralph S. Trigg and Deputy Administrator Frank Woolley, Production and Marketing Administration, to become Special Assistants to the Secretary for Commodity Credit Corporation affairs. It also announced that Gus F. Geissler, Manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, would become Administrator of PMA, and Assistant Administrator of PMA for Production, Harold K. Hill, would become Deputy Administrator.

Dr. Salmon returned

Dr. C. S. Salmon, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, returned February 7 from his second tour of duty in Japan, this time as agricultural adviser to GHQ-SCAP; he had spent 6 months there in 1946 making a survey of agricultural research.

Starr millet

USDA and the Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, Ga., have released Starr millet, which makes an excellent summer livestock grass in the Coastal Plain. Originated by Dr. Glenn W. Burton, it was named after the late Director S. H. Starr of the Station mentioned. It has proved outstanding in grazing tests.

Attachments

The British seem to be going in heavily for farm machinery with many attachments. The Barford two-wheeled Atom, a versatile multipurpose tractor, has 20, among which are a weed slasher, a rotary tiller, a tipping truck, a grass cutter, and a lawn mower. There is also a self-propelled motor scythe with an electric hedge trimmer, a high-pressure sprayer, a centrifugal water pump, a rotary brush for sweeping highways and parks, a light hoe, a snow plow, and a hay sweep among its many attachments.

Dean Graves passes

Henry Solon Graves died March 7 at his home in Brattleboro, Vt., aged 80. President Taft appointed him head of Forest Service to succeed Gifford Pinchot, under whom Graves had served 1898–1900. A graduate of Yale, Dean Graves took a forestry course at Harvard, studied in Munich, then entered USDA, resigning in 1900, when he was called to organize Yale's School of Forestry of which he was director until 1910, when he became USDA's Chief Forester. He resigned in 1920, was a consulting engineer in forestry for 2 years, then returned to Yale as dean of the School of Forestry and Sterling professor of forestry. He was one of the pioneers in the Government's long-time program of forest conservation.

Dr. Haller promoted

Dr. H. L. Haller, special assistant to the Bureau Chief since 1947, and, 1937–47, assistant leader of its Division of Insecticide Investigations, has become Assistant Chief of Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, in charge of insecticides and chemical problems relating to insect control. A graduate of University of Cincinnati and of Columbia, Dr. Haller entered USDA in 1919, was on the staff of Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research 1923–29, then he returned to USDA. One of his outstanding scientific contributions was made in collaboration with Drs. F. B. LaForge and L. E. Smith; it was determining the structure of rotenone, for which he and Dr. LaForge won the Hillebrand Prize for 1932.

Northrup to FCIC

F. B. Northrup, who for 3 years has been secretary general of the International Emergency Food Committee and director of the Distribution Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization, has become assistant manager of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. Earlier Mr. Northrup directed the Price Support and Foreign Supply Branch of Production and Marketing Administration, and was assistant to its administrator. In the period 1934–43, he served in old AAA in various capacities, ultimately becoming assistant administrator. He spent 9 months in Germany as Chief of the Production Branch for the Military Government, following wartime service in WFA where he for a time headed the Office of Materials and Facilities.

Safe driving in FS

Forest Service reports that its employees have driven 120 million miles during the past 3 years without a single fatality. The U.S. Government rate as a whole is 12.5 fatalities per 100 million miles, so at least 12 lives were saved, and FS, with much rough going on mountain and woods trails, just about tops the list.

Miss Barnett dies

Miss Claribel R. Barnett, long USDA's Librarian, died at her home in Washington, D. C., February 5, after prolonged ill health. A native of Kent, Ohio, she took her Ph. D. at University of Michigan and her B. L. S. at New York State Library School. She entered the Library May 28, 1895, just 3 days before her classmate, Miss Emma B. Hawkes; they worked there together for 45 years, retiring together November 15, 1940. When Miss Barnett entered the Library it contained approximately 45,000 volumes; when she left the count was 300,000 volumes. Miss Barnett became Librarian in July 1907, by appointment of Secretary "Tama" Jim Wilson and Miss Hawks was appointed her assistant. It was Miss Barnett who began the Library's bibliofilm or microfilm service. She was distinguished in her profession and, as a dairy scientist once remarked, was "Quality with a capital Q." Her passing is deeply regretted by a host of friends and former associates.

EPQ's William H. White

EPQ entomologist William H. White, world-wide authority on the insect pests of vegetables, truck crops, and ornamentals, died from a sudden heart attack shortly before reaching his office in USDA's South Building on the morning of March 14. A graduate of the University of Maryland, he joined the Department in 1914 as scientific assistant to investigate insects that damage vegetables in greenhouses. He was especially well known to gardeners, canners, greenhousemen, and growers of truck crops, ornamentals, and mushrooms. Many outstanding advances in the control of insect pests of concern to these groups have been made under his direction as leader of the Division of Truck Crop and Garden Insect Investigations, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, since 1932. During World War I he served as second lieutenant with the American Expeditionary Forces in France. Donald J. Caffrey, assistant to Mr. White for many years, has been designated acting in charge of the Division.

Changes in PMA

The following changes in PMA were announced March 8: Roy W. Lennartson, who has been Deputy Assistant Administrator for Marketing, became Director of the Office of Materials and Facilities, the former Director of which, L. B. Taylor, became Director of the Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch, while Alvin V. McCormack, former ACP Director, returned to Idaho as chairman of its State PMA committee, the position he held before coming to Washington in October 1948. Mr. Lennartson is a native of Minnesota who has served USDA in various administrative capacities since 1936, except for 3 years with the armed forces; he studied at Universities of Minnesota and of Maryland. Mr. Taylor is a Kansan who was reared in Idaho, graduated from the University of Idaho, was with the Idaho extension service and AAA, and has held various USDA administrative positions in Washington since 1942. Mr. McCormack owns and operates a large general farm in Idaho, his native State, and has been continuously connected with the USDA farmer committee system since 1933.

Mirov's book

John Wiley & Sons, Inc., of 440 Fourth Avenue, New York City 16, have published "Geography of Russia," by N. T. Mirov, plant physiologist with Forest Service, at about $5 a copy.

Feed research

If interested in the kinds of projects for work under the Research and Marketing Act recommended by the Feed Advisory Committee, plus related information, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 521.

Bob Crom joins up

Bob Crom, a native of Iowa and a graduate of Iowa State, who was formerly with Station WMT at Cedar Rapids, and KGLO at Mason City, Iowa, has joined the staff of Radio and Television Service, Office of Information.

Nonfat-dry-milk-solids standards

The USDA has issued proposed standards for grades of nonfat-dry-milk solids. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 615.

"Farm Wanted"

This $3 book by Helen Train Hilles, from Julian Messner, Inc., 8 West Fortieth Street, New York City 18, may be regarded as the annual volume about the city family that took to the farm and had simply oodles of bliss. Since the author has done a couple of successful cookbooks, the present volume is seasoned with perhaps a little more food than most books of the kind.

Vitamin B_{12} group

It seems no time at all since we were announcing the advent of vitamin B_{12}. Now it has had pups, and how! It takes 15 or 20 pages of the British Medical Journal for January 27, 1951, to discuss the vitamin B_{12} "group of factors" in several articles and an editorial. So far vitamin B_{12} has appeared in forms, *a, b, c,* and *d;* any day more, and ever more, progeny are anticipated.

Flowers to Rosenkrans

Jack Flowers, Mississippi's extension editor for the past 8 years, has resigned to accept a position in the International Press and Publications Division, Department of State. He has been succeeded by Duane B (Rosie) Rosenkrans, Jr., who has been assistant extension editor in Mississippi since June 1949; and is a graduate of the Henry W. Grady School of Journalism, University of Georgia.

Manpower responsibilities assigned

Secretary's Memorandum No. 1283, February 26, assigned certain manpower responsibilities to Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Production and Marketing Administration, Extension Service, Agricultural Research Administration, and Office of the Secretary. For the details procure the Memorandum itself from Secretary's Records Section, Office of Plant and Operations, USDA; write, or phone Ext. 3337.

The herd went

The only herd of dairy cattle in the District of Columbia, the 175 head of purebred Holsteins at Soldier's Home, has been sold to make way for a hospital. The herd has an enviable disease record. It was the first in the U. S. to be accredited as free from tuberculosis by Bureau of Animal Industry. That was in 1918, and, in 1939, it was accredited as free from Bang's disease—Bang was a man's name, the cows do not blow up.

Potato research

If interested in types of projects recommended by the Potato Advisory Committee for research under the Research and Marketing Act, and related information, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 623.

Tobacco research

If interested in the types of research recommended by the Tobacco Advisory Committee for projects under the Research and Marketing Act, as well as related matters, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 543.

Lint cotton cleaner

The lint cotton cleaner, a recent research development of USDA, was described recently by USDA engineer Charles A. Bennett. For details on this *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 530.

Forest products agreement

The National Production Authority and the Forest Service have signed a Memorandum of Agreement concerning the division of responsibilities in the field of forest products under the Defense Production Act of 1950. For details get in touch with FS.

Thumbs down on liquid fertilizer

The Saskatchewan Fertilizer Advisory Council, in a new revision of its "Guide to Farm Practice in Saskatchewan, says: "Liquid fertilizer was tested again in 1950, both by itself and in combination with dry fertilizer. However, experimental work to date has shown no general increase in yield, and its use on grain crops in the province was not recommended."

Industry advisory committees

In *USDA* for March 14 there was an item under this caption concerning the 17 groups established by the Secretary to advise USDA on problems related to the National Defense Program. Membership of these and some seven additional committees is now being announced, and other information about their activities becomes available as they meet. Committees set up so far include those advising on marketing, dairy, poultry, fruit and vegetable canners, edible oil, margarine, crushers, mayonnaise and salad dressing, industrial oils, breakfast cereals, dry edible beans and peas, rice, seed, wheat flour milling, wholesale grocery, public feeding, distilling, brewing and malt, corn processing, baking, feed, tallow and grease, and retail food distribution. For details ask for the appropriate press releases supplied by Press Service, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

Harold Stone departs

Harold A. Stone, Chief, Division of Fiscal Management, Office of Budget and Finance, has transferred to the Office of the Comptroller, Department of the Army. He continues in management analysis and improvement work to which he contributed so much in USDA since 1939. Before entering the Federal service, Mr. Stone had been associated with the California Taxpayers' Association, the Bureau of Governmental Research in Louisiana, and the American Municipal Association, Chicago. He holds a degree in engineering from Ohio State University and one in public administration from Syracuse. Mr. Stone's successor as head of the Division of Fiscal Management is Joseph P. Loftus, who has recently served as Assistant to the Director of Finance. He entered the Department in 1945 after previous governmental experience with the General Accounting Office and the Federal Security Agency.

Fire fighting from the air

If you are interested in how Forest Service utilizes airplanes and helicopters to protect the National Forests from fire damage, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 557.

Aamodt in Europe

Dr. O. S. Aamodt, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, and Prof. F. S. Prince, University of New Hampshire, are in Europe studying grasslands in six countries, winding up at a Rome conference in June. ECA is paying for this mission under its technical aid program.

Changes in poultry regulations

Production and Marketing Administration has announced proposed revisions in inspection and grading regulations for poultry to permit official grading for quality of only ready-to-cook poultry that has been officially inspected for condition and wholesomeness. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 586.

Improvement in grasses

We have a two-page mimeographed statement in which Dr. W. W. Myers, in charge of USDA's forage research, summarizes the progress in improving grasses made by research during the past 15 years, and tells something of the strikingly superior varieties now available. If you want a copy *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address at end of the last column, and ask for No. 587.

EPQ in the Northeast

Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine has reorganized its activities in New England, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. This move to improve efficiency and increase economy will have headquarters in Greenfield, Mass., where Roy G. Richmond will be Director of the Northeastern Region. He was formerly leader of the Division of Domestic Plant Quarantine. For more information *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 566.

Adjustment to aging

Those of you who heard the fine series of lectures the USDA Graduate School provided on planned retirement and the adjustments required by aging might find much of interest in an article on "Gerontotherapeutics" by Thomas S. Gardner, in March Scientific Monthly. This term was invented by Dr. Harry Benjamin to describe the treating of aging p rsons as an entity, to slow them down and prevent premature development of advanced senescence. You who did not hear the lectures might also be interested. The editor tried to get processed copies of the lectures to send out on request but the Graduate School was unable to reproduce them.

April 11, 1951 Vol. X, No. 8

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA
Employee News Bulletin

FOR APRIL 25, 1951

For superior work

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment and Certificates of Merit were recently awarded employees, as indicated below:

Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry—HENRY E. KIMBEL, clerk-stenographer, Wyndmoor, Pa.; EARL L. MULLER, laboratory mechanic, Albany, Calif.; GRACE V. SOIGNET, clerk-typist, New Orleans, La.; PAUL A. WATSON, chemist, Peoria, Ill.

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation—MURL E. CUMMINGS, administrative officer (State director), Spokane, Wash.

Rural Electrification Administration—DOROTHY M. COOLEY, administrative officer, Washington, D. C.; ELMER A. CORUM, administrative officer (field representative), Memphis, Tenn.; AGNES R. JOHNSON, clerk-stenographer, Washington, D. C.; EMANUEL NOBEL, visual information specialist (head, exhibits units), Washington, D. C.; ARTHUR H. SCHARTNER, administrative officer (assistant to regional head), Washington, D. C.; ALLEN C. STAMP, messenger, Washington, D. C.; WALTER L. WOLFF, valuation engineer (head, acquisition section), Washington, D. C.

Soil Conservation Service—HERBERT C. MORRIS, soil conservation aid, Columbus, Miss.; ALBERT I. MULYCK, administrative assistant, Madison, Wis.; SARAH C. ROWAN, clerk-stenographer, Montgomery, Ala.; OMAR K. SQUIBB, soil conservation aid, Salem, Ill.

Watch your language!

Have you seen Training Manual No. 7, Federal Security Agency, "Getting Your Ideas Across Through Writing," available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., at 25 cents (no stamps, please)? It is worth reading if the subject interests you. It was edited by Milton Hall who, with James F. Grady, has prepared many well-known publications on better Government letters and reports.

Supervisors and Management experts

In *USDA* for March 14 we recommended a new study of industrial workers, but, as stated, by merely abstracting an article about it that appeared in Business Week for February 10. A review copy of the study has now been read by the editor who herewith again recommends "Productivity, Supervision, and Morale in an Office Situation," Part I, by Daniel Katz, Nathan Maccody, and Nancy C. Morse, published by the University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, Mich., at $2.50 a copy. Its merits serious study by our supervisory and management personnel. It is part of a larger investigation being carried on by the Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, at Michigan, Rensis Likert, director.

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Cash Awards

THE FOLLOWING individuals have received cash awards for adopted suggestions during the period of February 1 through February 28. (Detailed information concerning the suggestions may be secured from the Bureau Efficiency Award Committee):

Farmers Home Administration—HATTIE S. BALABAN, Denver, Colo., $10; MAUDE T. GRAY, Dallas, Tex., $10; JOSEPH H. LINSLEY, Harrisburg, Pa., $10; MARY B. DOLAN, Morgantown, W. Va., $70; BLANCHE SMITH, Oklahoma City, Okla., $10; MARY S. SMITH, Athens, Ala., $10; HERBERT C. TRADER, St. Paul, Minn., $10; Mrs. JEAN W. WALTHALL, Reidsville, N. C., $15; M. KATHLEEN WILLIAMS, Denver, Colo., $15.

Forest Service—ETHEL J. BOOTHE, Okanogan, Wash., $10; HAROLD R. BOWERMAN, Grants Pass, Oreg., $10; RAY A. BURDICK, Wenatchee, Wash., $10; HOWARD R. DEAN, Eugene, Oreg., $10; CARL F. HAMILTON, Okanogan, Wash., $10; GUY B. JOHNSON, Portland, Oreg., $10; R. C. LINDBERG, Portland, Oreg., $10; ORVILLE RICHMAN, Roseburg, Oreg., $175; PAUL H. TALICH, Grants Pass, Oreg., $10; LUELLA M. THOMPSON, Portland, Oreg., $10.

Production and Marketing Administration—CARL M. HEATON, Manhattan, Kans., $10; FRANCISCO RIVERA, San Juan, P. R., $80; LYDIA M. SACHS, Washington, D. C., $10; FORREST M. TOWNSEND, Washington, D. C., $50.

Soil Conservation Service—MORRIE B. BOPP, Upper Darby, Pa., $15; EDWARD D. LONG, Grand Haven, Mich., $150.

PROMOTIONS AND YOU

It is the policy of USDA to fill vacancies by transfer and promotion from within whenever possible. Department-wide placement rosters of eligibles are being established for positions at GS 11 and above for which there is continuing demand for qualified applicants. These rosters offer USDA employees a chance to be considered for positions that will utilize all skills and enhance promotion possibilities. All field and Washington personnel qualified for any position in grades GS 11 or above are urged to apply for positions in both Washington and the field. Use Standard Form 57 and submit directly to Division of Employment, Office of Personnel, USDA, Washington 25, D. C. Be sure to include acceptable location of employment, minimum salary, and fields of work that especially interest you and in which you are qualified.

Emphasis on information

TO GUIDE ITS work under the Research and Marketing Act of 1946 the USDA has appointed a considerable number of advisory committees composed of experts in fields wherein research projects might be set up. These committees have been uniformly helpful. So it occurred to the information personnel of Agricultural Research Administration that it might be a good thing to appoint a special independent advisory committee, composed of outside experts, to make a critical survey of the Department's dissemination of information regarding its RMA and other research projects. Just this was done. The committee met, aired whatever gripes it had, learned about the problems faced in the information field here, proved sympathetic and helpful, and made its recommendations during early March. It learned, for instance, that most ARA information workers perform clerical tasks, edit technical publications which issue in a steady stream, and cope with incoming correspondence—and a single ARA bureau will average between 600 and 1,500 incoming letters weekly—and that just 13 persons are available for the issuance of current information.

Ivan J. Campbell, editor of the Cotton Gin and Oil Mill Press in Dallas, and a member of the special information advisory committee, presented the recommendations of his group to the Agricultural Research Policy Committee during its 2-day meeting with USDA officials later in March. Agricultural Research Administrator P. V. Cardon presided at this meeting and Secretary Brannan and Assistant Secretary Hutchinson attended several sessions. The Committee recommended increased emphasis on all methods of disseminating the results of research as an aid in national mobilization. It found the information committee's specific recommendations for strengthening the reporting of research to all segments of the public in general acceptable. For more details about the membership of the Agricultural Research Policy Committee and regarding the matters discussed at this March meeting, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 712 and the report of the information advisory group.

Dean Hill dies

Dean J. A. Hill of the University of Wyoming, who went on emeritus status last year and was named vice president of the University, died March 10. He was an outstanding leader of western agriculture and its agricultural research.

Do you say too much?

HOW MANY OF US are guilty of writing or saying too much? Who is without sin to cast the first stone? Of course, the editor can judge only from his own experience. But time after time quite long letters come in explaining in greatest detail who the writer is, why he wants a certain item offered in *USDA*, and precisely where he found reference to it, when all that is needed is a terse, informal note saying "Please send No. ——." Of course, a few kind words about, or even some harsh criticism of, *USDA* would be appreciated. But no more is needed. Again, we offer a group of six *USDA* documents. We send out a mimeographed sheet describing them, so set up that all one needs do is check the documents desired, put name and address down below and mail back, but time after time this sheet returns chaperoned by a needless but carefully dictated letter often containing a complete listing of all six documents and their descriptions. Quite often employees in the Washington metropolitan area mail postals or letters to us under postage when a note in an old envelope via the interoffice messenger service suffices.

Telephone requests often reach us in the same alarmingly redundant way, the individual who phones feeling compelled to give a complete description of the place, time, and circumstances of seeing our offer, a detailed bibliographical citation and, if possible, a description of the inquirer. Actually all they need to say is "Please send me No. —— as offered in *USDA*—and I do love *USDA*!" The last clause is optional. But the name of your agency is not optional; your name and address are not optional; they are mandatory in our language, yet you would be surprised how many requests we get which bear no address or an incomplete one. Again, many field employees address merely the Office of Information or Editor of *USDA*. Both are imprecise and incomplete addresses. Since there are dozens of editors in the USDA, the latter is almost meaningless. The editor's name and address always has been at the end of the last column, last page of each issue.

A letter or a telephone message must be complete, of course, but it can also be concise. We could all be much briefer both by letter and on the telephone than we are, and the time and labor saving would be significant. Brief letters, provided they are complete, get you into a lot less trouble than verbally obese missives. One way of writing brief letters is to confine yourself to a piece of paper of a specified size, a half or a third sheet of letterhead. If you cannot compress the letter into that space the first time you can try again until you do. We all tend to write and talk too much.

"Well" built house

FROM OUT OF Nebraska comes a simple story of how a well built a house. The well is an irrigation well on the Schreiber farm near Palisade in the southwest part of the State. Schreiber got a $2,350 water facilities loan through Farmers Home Administration in 1943 for a well and pump, and brought 97 of his 320 acres under irrigation. The loan was all paid off in 6 years. In the 6 years Schreiber's net worth went up $9,300.

His crop sales advanced from $180 to $2,000, livestock sales from $1,900 to $7,500, livestock-products sales from $330 to $750. His farm records showed these crop-yield increases: Alfalfa from 30 acres, 45 tons in 1942, to 90 from 27 acres in 1948; corn from 67 acres, 1,475 bushels in 1942, to 2,700 in 1948; not to mention a new 3-acre alfalfa seeding. And the house? While the loan was being repaid, Schreiber built a new $4,000 house, paid for out of the increased production resulting from the use of the irrigation well.

Brief but important

"Classification in a Nutshell"

This is a new publication from USDA's Office of Personnel. It does the job effectively and with good humor. It is Administrative Series No. 11.

Honey grades revised

The Production and Marketing Administration announced a revision of U. S. standards for grades of extracted honey which became effective April 2. For details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 686.

Geese

Geese have the secret of longevity for their kind—can live 40 years or more. They were once common on farms and were usually plucked each spring at molting time for usable feathers to make beds and pillows. One South Carolinian is reported to use a goose per fenced-in acre to pick grass out of his cotton!

Better meetings

"New Ways To Better Meetings," described as a "practical, lively handbook for members or chairmen," is a new $2.95 book from the Viking Press Inc., 18 East Forty-Eighth Street, New York City 17, by Bert and Frances Strauss. It is said to be the first volume for the general reader giving practical improved methods of holding meetings and telling how to make groups produce more effectively and democratically. The methods have been tested and adopted by numerous organizations. The USDA Library has a copy of this book.

Stockberger Award

The Stockberger Achievement Award, in memory of Warner W. Stockberger who essentially initiated personnel work in the Federal Government and was, of course, in our own USDA, went this year to Dr. Frederick M. Davenport, Chairman of the Federal Personnel Council. This Award goes annually to an outstanding Government personnel official and is presented by the Society for Personnel Administration.

Harry B. Mitchell retired

Chairman Mitchell retired recently from the Civil Service Commission where he had served since 1933, first as its President then as its Chairman. A former Montana newsman and ranch owner and mayor of Great Falls, Mont., he has never lost his love for his native State and has maintained substantial interests there. His son, Hugh B. Mitchell, has served both as United States Senator and Representative. Former Chairman Mitchell was universally acclaimed as he retired and has a splendid record as a Government official.

Corn

This is not a bum joke, not even a joke. "Corn" is the name of a monthly periodical issued by the Corn Industries Research Foundation. The February 1951, issue was a salute to the Department of Agriculture for its 89 years. It reported also on some of the Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln background out of which our efficient and highly organized American agriculture of today emerged. It is a job very well done and, if you want to read this fascinating history, and to have at hand a diagram of Washington's farm as he had it prepared for Sir Arthur Young in 1793, *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address end of last column, back page, and ask for the February issue of "Corn."

"20 Minutes a Day for 20 Days"

No, it's not a personality improvement program, nor even a wonder "slimmer." It's not guaranteed to make you healthy, wealthy, or wise, at least not directly, but it may make you a faster typist. Developed by Remington Rand, "Typewriting Speed Spurt Drills" are self-teaching devices designed for 20-minute-a-day practice sessions to cover a period of 20 days. Theoretically the typist retains much of the speed gained by forced spurt typing when typing "with control." Most typists who have completed the program according to instructions have increased their typing speed 20 words per minute. It must work! *Copies of Typing Speed Spurt Drills may be obtained from your Personnel or Training Officer.*

Cortisone from plants

Many plants contain steroids that can be synthesized into cortisone, the new antiarthritic drug now obtainable only from animals. The Cortisone Project is a cooperative three-group affair carried on by the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, whose explorers are scouring the world for samples of likely plants; the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory in Philadelphia, where chemists under the direction of Dr. J. J. Willaman determine the kind and quantity of steroids the plants contain; and the Public Health Service, which studies conversion of the steroids into cortisone at the National Institutes of Health. Of the 600 plant samples so far examined most have been yuccas, yams, agaves, and molinas. The problem is to find a plant containing sufficient of the steroids to justify development into a crop grown specifically to produce a precursor of cortisone. The project is in its early stages as yet, though some suitable types of steroids have been found, but in low concentrations.

Tax selves for research

It is reported that Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado wheat growers are sponsoring a plan to tax themselves, as Oregon wheat growers have already done, to pay for research and study toward a national farm program.

Protein for dessert

That doesn't mean sugared ham or roast beef. But any generous egg-containing dessert like cup custard or pound cake is pretty well loaded with protein. So, if the meal itself is shy in this, the dessert helps make up the day's quota.

One picture a thousand words?

Carrington Goodrich, professor of Chinese at Columbia University, says the Chinese phrase coming nearest this in meaning is in the "Han Shu" by Pan Ku and others, first century A. D., chapter 69, and translates best: "Hearing about something a hundred times is not up to seeing it once."

From SCS

"The Measure of Our Land," by J. G. Steele, is a new illustrated publication (PA-128) from Soil Conservation Service dealing graphically and in text with land-capability classification. "How to Recognize Erosion in the Northeast," new Agriculture Information Bulletin No. 27, is profusely illustrated, tells what to do about erosion also, and was prepared by Information Specialist William W. Reitz of the Northeastern Region, SCS. Procure as you do other printed publications, *not* from the editor of *USDA*.

Cheap protein for dairy cows

What is the cheapest source of protein for dairy cows? Dr. Lane A. Moore of our Bureau of Dairy Industry answers: High-quality forage. If you want more details on this, *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address at end of last column back page, and ask for No. 683. And, while on the subject of dairying, the number of Dairy-Herd-Improvement Associations is now 2,143, or over 2,000 for the first time. If you want national and State-by-State details on numbers of associations, herds, and cows, ask the editor for No. 679.

Aid to Britain on poultry

Geoffrey Sykes of a well-known British poultry-breeding firm visited the United States in 1946 to study our poultry methods. Since then he has successfully introduced revolutionary changes in the management of poultry for egg production in Britain. He has devised the British hen-yard system, which is similar to the American deep-litter method, but adapted to British conditions and in some ways improved. For more details on this ask British Information Services in New York City, Chicago, San Francisco, or Washington, D. C., for RFD-99, dated March 20.

Clarkson assistant for defense

Dr. M. R. Clarkson, chief of the Division of Inspection and Quarantine, Bureau of Animal Industry, has been named Special Assistant for Defense, Agricultural Research Administration, succeeding Dr. S. A. Rohwer, who died suddenly February 12. A native of Washington and a graduate of Washington State College with B. S. and D. V. M. degrees, Dr. Clarkson took his LL. B. at Georgetown University in 1942, and was admitted to the bar of the District of Columbia. Previous to his inspection and quarantine work Dr. Clarkson spent 17 years with the Meat Inspection Service, BAI, in Washington, South Dakota, Indiana, and New York, coming to Washington, D. C., as Assistant Chief of the Service in 1942.

Relationships with FAO

Secretary's Memorandum No. 1285, March 15, 1951, deals with maintenance of relationships with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its new Rome headquarters. For details get the Memorandum from Secretary's Records Section, Office of Plant and Operations, USDA.

Improved fruit handling

Fruit-precooling studies conducted by USDA engineers working at Wenatchee, Wash., may lead to improved handling and storage for this important industry in the Pacific Northwest. For more details on this work, with G. F. Sainsbury in charge, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 704.

Keep those bonds

The first series E Government savings bonds will start maturing May 1. If holders do not want to cash their bonds they will continue to draw interest at 2½ percent a year for 7½ years thereafter and, if held for the full 10 years the bonds will earn 2.9 percent interest compounded semiannually for that decade. Hence the original $75 paid for an E series savings bond in 1941 will be worth $100 at maturity this year, and $133.33 if held until 1961. Hold those bonds.

Reorganization assignments

Refer again to the Secretary's Memoranda dealing with USDA's reorganization. Secretary's Memorandum No. 1286, March 22, designated Assistant Secretary Knox T. Hutchinson to carry out the provisions of Memorandum No. 1279, dealing with agricultural research, statistical services, and related activities, and Under Secretary Clarence J. McCormick to carry out those of Memorandum No. 1278, dealing wtih the agricultural resources conservation services. These Memoranda were digested in USDA for March 14; they called for new assistant secretaries to take these assignments.

Information vs. propaganda

Lester Merkel, editor of the Sunday New York Times, defines these words thus: "Information is the communication of facts and opinions in an effort to *enlighten*. Propaganda is the communication of facts (or nonfacts) and opinions in an effort to influence." He continues, "Information, presumably, is calm, coldly logical, unemotional; propaganda is turbulent, hotly persuasive, supercharged with emotion." But, at times, propaganda may be the calm presentation of lies and, fortunately facts set down objectively often have greater influence than flaming prevarications. Actually the two usually flow together because we are rarely content to give the bare facts without setting forth our aims and intentions, which is an attempt to influence and to convince.

A goose is a goose

We have mentioned a South Carolina farmer who used geese for herbicidal purposes in his cotton acreage. H. L. Shrader and George M. Darrow of USDA recently observed that the weeding of strawberry beds by goose power has been going on for many years. If properly managed, it is also possible to have the waddling weeders put on flesh and down for the market as they perform their beneficial service. The geese get results comparable to those secured by selective herbicides; they are good destroyers of grassy weeds, crabgrass in particular, but do not relish strawberry foliage. They are most useful before the vines spread and mat the first season. During the fruiting season the two-legged herbicides are put into another pasture until the harvest is over. Not only are the geese in a low-wage class, but they prepare themselves for market at the same time! Who said a goose wasn't a goose wasn't a goose?

They just told us

This is late news all right, for the United States Plant, Soil, and Nutrition Laboratory at Ithaca, N. Y., which long headed up under the Agricultural Research Administrator, was assigned to the Soils Division, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering as of July 1, 1950.

Cows get wood molasses

Dairy scientists at Washington State College have some dairy cows on ersatz silage containing wood molasses, made by a method developed at USDA's Forest Products Laboratory. Calves fed this molasses, made by treating waste wood with acid, gained more than those not getting it. They put on 1 pound of weight per 10 pounds of molasses consumed. The molasses was also found to help preserve grass-legume silage and to make it smell better! Wood molasses is not yet in commercial production, but research has proved its value and factories are being planned to produce it.

Electric heat pumps

In work by USDA and the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station, electrical heat pumps used in five Kansas farm homes compared favorably with conventional air-conditioning systems in heating, cooling, and installation and operating costs. They were safe and offered a chance for petroleum-fuel conservation. If you want to know more about these heat pumps, which are basically refrigeration units that carry the heat away in summer, but reverse in winter, collect heat from water or soil and use it to warm the house, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 709.

Williamson retired

H. H. Williamson, Assistant Director of Extension Service since January 1945, has retired and returned to his native Texas, where he was director of extension work for 8 years beginning in 1935. Soon after graduating from Texas A & M, Mr. Williamson became Texas State Boys 4-H Club Agent, then State agent in county-agent work, then assistant, then vice director of extension work. In 1921 he conducted the first group of 4-H Club members to make a study tour of Western Europe. He came to Washington in 1943 as adviser to the Administrator of OPA on agricultural relations. After 39 years of public service he will reside at his old home in Bryan, Tex., taking active management of his farm and small cattle ranch nearby.

New assistants to the Secretary

Alfred R. Barnes and Jonathan Garst have joined the Secretary's staff to work on supply problems in the fields of farm machinery, fertilizers, insecticides, and other equipment essential to farm production and food distribution. Mr. Barnes operates a farm-implement business in South Dakota, and has long been a State chairman for FMA and predecessor organizations. He has farmed in Iowa and in California, served in AAA at community, county, and State levels, and was for 5 years, beginning 1938, South Dakota AAA program administrator, resigning in 1943 to go into business. Mr. Garst served in AAA 1933-35, when he went to Resettlement Administration as assistant to the Director, later becoming Assistant Director, then Director for the Western Region until Farm Security Administration was formed. He continued with Federal Surplus Commodity Corporation and Agricultural Marketing Administration until 1942, after which he served in the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, War Production Board, and Civilian Production Administration, until he returned to farming and hybrid-seed-corn production in California.

Farm machinery situation

Under Secretary McCormick presented the facts on the farm machinery situation before the House Agriculture Committee on March 19. If you want a copy of the statement he made *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 689.

Dry beans and peas

If you want to know the kinds of research, service, and educational work under the Research and Marketing Act, recommended by the Dry Beans and Peas Advisory Committee, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 670.

If any of you want these—

We still have copies of "The Breakfast Egg," "Care of Glassware," "The Korea Statement," "Light and the Office Worker," "Some Ideas on Rapid Reading," and "When You Introduce a Speaker." *Write* the editor of *USDA,* name and address end of last column, back page, and request by title.

Did you know?

At last December's prices: If the farmer had given away the wheat in a 16-cent loaf of bread, it would still have cost the consumer 13.4 cents. If he had given away his stake in milk at 22–23 cents a quart, the housewife would still have paid 11.5 cents? Similarly, a $50 suit would have cost a man $40.50; a can of pork and beans priced 16 cents would still have cost 14; and a package of cigarettes priced at 20 would still have cost the smoker 17 cents.

Science News Report

"News Report" is a new bimonthly available from the National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington 25, D. C., at nominal cost. It is designed to report current activities of divisions, boards, committees, and other established groups, within the organization and to record news of affiliated societies, and developments in the field of international science. It is distributed without charge to organizations and individuals directly associated with the Academy-Research Council.

IFYE

We said that before. It means the International Farm Youth Exchange project (Extension Service is our coordinating agency) which this year will send 57 young men and women from 34 States to live on one or more farms in Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. If you want to know who they are and whence they came, and so on, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 732.

"Spring chicken"

That's a misnomer now, for it isn't any more. Broilers and fryers are no longer seasonal and, last year, about 2 billion pounds of meat, or 12 pounds per person, came to market thus. There were 600 million broilers and fewer than 700 million birds kept in flocks for the egg supply. All this came about in a few years aided by the development of commercial hatching, breeding for broiler quality, refrigeration, food lockers, deep-freezing, ready-to-serve packaging, new skills and new specialization, and better feeding methods. Besides, the hen complacently cooperated by increasing her average annual lay from 89 to 137 eggs, two 1949 hens laying as many eggs as three hens in 1934. Just now the average feeding period to market is being reduced by 1 week. All-year-round spring chicken has arrived.

Grain research

If you want information about research projects recommended under the Research and Marketing Act by the Grain Advisory Committee, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 734.

"Arizona Highways"

This is one of the most beautiful magazines published by any State in the Union. The color photography is outstanding. The subscription rate is $3 a year; address Arizona Highways, Phoenix, Ariz.

Cotton and cottonseed studies

If interested in the kinds of research recommended for work under the Research and Marketing Act by the Cotton and Cottonseed Advisory Committee, and related information, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 754.

Farming guide

"A Practical Guide for the Beginning Farmer," is a new Harper book by Herbert Jacobs, farm news editor of the Madison (Wis.) Capital Times. Priced at $3, it is "full of good advice," to quote USDA's Director of Information, Keith Himebaugh. Russel Lord pronounces it "the most useful work on the subject I have seen," and he, too, should know what he is talking about. The whole subject is covered, from how to choose your land to the hardships you may confidently expect, plus hundreds of time-savers, short cuts, and practical hints.

Lactoprene BN

This is a new synthetic rubber with outstanding resistance to dry heat, water, oils, subzero temperatures, and senility. Similar to, but better than, Lactoprene EV, it was developed at our Eastern Regional Research Laboratory in Philadelphia and, in case you'd like to whip up some on the kitchen stove, it is made from butyl acrylate and acrylonitrile which, in turn, are made from milk or corn sugars, easily located on a pantry shelf. For detailed information ask the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory, Philadelphia 18, Pa., or Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry here to send you AIC-302, by T. J. Dietz and J. E. Hansen.

Cotton mechanization

The USDA and the agricultural experiment stations of a dozen Southern States are cooperating in the Regional Cotton Mechanization Project under the Research and Marketing Act. They believe that progress in cotton mechanization in the Southeast will aid materially in producing the 16 million bales needed this year. R. F. Colwick, the engineer who correlates this research, says that every bit of progress in mechanization is being fitted into the cotton-production picture as a whole—crop-residue disposal, seedbed preparation, planting, grass and weed control, fertilizing and cover-cropping, and harvesting. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA,* name and address end of last column, and ask for No. 705.

Frozen apple-juice concentrate liked

A recent survey brought favorable comment especially on the natural flavor and real-apple taste of three newly developed frozen apple-juice concentrates developed by our Western Regional Research Laboratory and the Washington State Apple Commission. The latter cooperated with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and Washington State College in making the survey. In processing apple concentrate the volatile flavor constituents of the fresh juice are recovered and mixed back into the concentrate just before freezing, giving a full, natural apple flavor. This work forms part of a broad Research and Marketing Act project designed to increase consumption and avoid surpluses of apples.

What the Government can do for you

"How to Get It From the Government" is a large-sized paper-bound book by Stacy V. Jones, published by E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., 300 Fourth Avenue, New York City 10, at $1.50 a copy. It tells exactly how to get specific information from the Federal Government on a wide variety of topics and fills a long-felt need. It also lists a large group of Government best sellers by title and catalog number, giving the price of each.

Edmund Ezra Day

The New York Herald Tribune for March 27 paid fine editorial tribute to Dr. Day, the retired president of Cornell who died recently, not only for his work at this school, but for that at University of Michigan's School of Business Administration, of which he was the first dean; for the social science studies he directed for Rockefeller Foundation; his work at the State University of New York; and the part he played in the early projection of the National Science Foundation.

The scientist and lucre

In the November 3, 1950, issue of "Science" there was a letter on the payment of learned men, scholars, and scientists, which has by now (issue of March 23, 1951) touched off quite a correspondence that some of you might like to follow up. There is even a "Lament of a Moneyed Man," who is sure that he has accumulated more money than Curie, Faraday, Bunsen, Linnaeus, and Keats put together, but nobody loves him, nobody reveres him, names streets after him, or erects monuments to him, so he is fed up with just making pots of money!

Grass silage

Edward J. Smith of Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports that Wisconsin has long led in a type of grassland farming based on making grass silage, a high-protein feed that enables farmers to reduce grain-concentrate feeding and often to substitute grass for corn silage, even if this requires a new silo. Machinery for handling grass crops direct to silo is improving so rapidly that a farmer may soon be able to store 15 to 20 acres of forage a day with a crew of three. Between 1949 and 1950 the number of Wisconsin farmers storing a grass crop doubled.

Vandals beware!

Vandals are at it again! A report comes about the destruction by fire of a picnic ground shelter on the Rita Blanca Water Conservation Project near Dalhart, Tex., the morning of March 4. The vandals apparently lighted a fire under the flat-roof shelter, so refueled it that it set the wood deck of the roof afire, became frightened at their inability to extinguish the flames, and fled. The shelter was owned by Soil Conservation Service. Careless vandalism on recreational areas—and Forest Service is a heavy sufferer too—is expensive and criminal. Do everything you can as a USDA employee to fight this evil and to warn others against the crime of vandalism.

April 25, 1951 Vol. X, No. 9

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR MAY 9, 1951

New heads of PMA

GUS F. GEISSLER, new Administrator of Production and Marketing Administration, was born near Medina, N. Dak., on a farm which he still owns and operates, and graduated from an Iowa business school. He served as a community committeeman under the original wheat program in 1933, and then held positions of increasing responsibility in AAA—chairman of the Stutsman County AAA corn-hog committee, chairman of the county ACP committee and, from early 1938 until December 1940, he was a member of the North Dakota State AAA Committee. He has been engaged in varied farm organization activities for 20 years, has served executively in several co-ops, and became Director of AAA's Western Division in June 1943, after serving as its assistant director since December 1941. He was named Manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation in April 1946.

Harold K. Hill, the new Deputy Administrator of PMA, is a native of Prairie du Sac, Wis., and attended a Wisconsin business college. He has owned and operated a diversified farm near his birthplace since 1924. He served as a community, then county, committeeman, 1934–37, when he became a Wisconsin farmers' fieldman for AAA. He was a member of the Wisconsin State AAA Committee 1940–45, when he came to Washington as special assistant to the Director of the AAA North Central Region. In 1946 he transferred to FCIC, where he served under Mr. Geissler for a few months before transferring to The PMA Field Service Branch. He later served in the Grain Branch, PMA. In the middle of 1948 he became assistant manager of Commodity Credit Corporation, and in February 1950, Assistant Administrator of PMA for Production and a member of the CCC Board of Directors. He is still a Director of CCC.

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Mabee to Iran

WILLIAM B. MABEE, operations supervisor of the Division of Grasshopper Control, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, at Elko, Nev., is now heading a mission to Iran to help it cope with the desert locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*), peculiar to the Near East, but related to the migratory locust of Latin America, *Schistocerca cancellata*. A native of Montana, a rancher there, and a graduate of Montana State, Mr. Mabee joined USDA in 1938, and is among the pioneers in the use of airplanes to spread insecticides on field crops. His first experience was in 1925, when, as extension entomologist in South Carolina, he helped use planes to dust calcium arsenate on cotton fields to discourage the boll weevil. During recent years he has been fighting the migratory range grasshopper that has severely infested Nevada, northern California, and southern Oregon, so successfully that the extent of infestation was reduced from over a million acres in fall 1949, to approximately 260,000 by fall 1951. There he used the exceptionally effective new insecticide "aldrin," to some extent.

Through the Department of State the Prime Minister of Iran has requested aid under the Point IV Program in helping control a locust plague that threatens the food crops along the Persian Gulf. It is thought that our experience with grasshopper control, plus Mr. Mabee, will be of invaluable assistance. Insecticides, airplanes equipped with spraying apparatus, and EPQ's leading grasshopper control expert are therefore being flown to Iran along with 13 tons of aldrin. This insecticide, a postwar development, is so effective that 2 ounces mixed with a gallon of such solvents as fuel oil or kerosene will spray an acre. Edson J. Hambleton, entomologist in Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, assisted in setting up this project and accompanied Mr. Mabee to Iran.

Last word on dictation

THE EDITOR'S snide remarks on the anachronism of dictating to stenographers stirred up much comment and correspondence. Two signed letters merit notice to dismiss the subject. A secretary comments on Civil Service Commission Chairman Ramspeck's idea of relieving the shortage of typists and stenographers by converting to dictaphones. These, says she, are modern, efficient, and economical, but since dictation is generally bad rather than good, what about the "hemmers" and "hawers," and the absent-minded types who forget to mark stopping and starting points on the rule pad, or the fellows who alter their words, phrases, and sentences without making their final choice clear? Says she, "The dictaphone operators, like secretaries, are going to have to be mighty good!"

Then there is an attorney in the field who was formerly a typist, and still a good one, judging from his letter which he confessed to typing himself. He approves stenography as an ancient and honorable profession permitting delegation to an amanuensis of much routine work. But should the top man have to do his own filing, keep track of his own appointments, open the mail and answer the telephone (parenthetically—the editor did not suggest that at all), when, by so doing, he reduces his output of more important things? "Woodrow Wilson, it is said, continued to use his typewriter as President of the United States, but if he did so, he had less time for the affairs of state." (President Wilson even took dictation from Billy Rose once, and transcribed and typed it off—and vice versa).

This USDA lawyer holds no brief for the oaf who merely wants a stenographer so that he can boast of having one. He remarks also that stenographers can go far—George B. Cortelyou became Secretary of the Treasury after serving as stenographer-secretary to Theodore Roosevelt; Herbert Hoover, early in his career, served as stenographer to a noted engineer; and Floyd R. Harrison rose from USDA stenographer to assistant to the Secretary and, later, assistant to the Governor of the Federal Reserve Board. So, he concludes, "There definitely is a place for stenography, and for good stenographers, now, as there has been since the dawn of civilization."

It takes less time to do a thing right than it does to explain why you did it wrong.

Motion Pictures shine

WE WON. Each August there are competitive international film exhibitions, the International Exhibition of Cinematographic Art at Venice, and the International Edinburgh Film Festival in Scotland. Film producers all over the world send their best for entry in competition, and there is rigid rejection of films not considered to be of exhibition quality. At Edinburgh selection for exhibition is the only award, though honors are awarded at Venice. Of 76 American films submitted for exhibition at Edinburgh in 1950, only 11 were actually exhibited, and 2 of those thus honored were from USDA—"Outbreak" and "Water for a Nation." They met the best competition the world had to offer, were later accepted at Venice also, and certificates of exhibition were awarded the USDA. Both pictures have also been extremely popular in this country.

This is a signal honor for the Department of Agriculture. Gordon Zimmerman of Soil Conservation Service gets principal credit for conceiving the idea of "Water for a Nation" and for writing the script; Nicholas Webster of Motion Picture Service, Office of Information, was the director who interpreted the idea in exciting and absorbing visual continuity. To Dr. M. R. Clarkson and his associates in Bureau of Animal Industry belongs the credit for guiding MPS script-writer Sid Abel in preparing the script for "Outbreak;" Irving Rusinow of MPS interpreted the script visually to produce the really dramatic picture. Chief Hugh H. Bennett of SCS and Chief B. T. Simms of BAI received the awards of exhibition for the pictures during the Secretary's Staff Conference recently.

"Big Hugh" remains on job

DR. HUGH H. BENNETT, Chief of Soil Conservation Service, attained the age of 70 on April 15. He will, however, remain with SCS, though past retirement age, and with 48 years of service, beginning in 1903 as a soil chemist in the Bureau of Soils, following his graduation from the University of North Carolina. His interest in soil conservation was aroused the following year while making a soil survey of Appomattox County, Va. He started a one-man crusade, built up a supporting factual background, and largely on the basis of his recommendations, Congress, in 1929, authorized the establishment of 10 erosion control experiment stations. The Soil Erosion Service was created in the Department of the Interior where Bennett headed it from its beginning, in September 1933. Later it was transferred to USDA and renamed SCS, where it became a permanent agency under the Soil Conservation Act of April 27, 1935.

Dr. Bennett has won world-wide renown. His continued services are regarded as invaluable now that agricultural production is so important to the mobilization program. He has traveled into many parts of the world to consult and advise on soil conservation problems, while visitors have come to him from all over the earth for advice and assistance. He is the author of many books and other publications on his life-long work and holds numerous awards for distinguished service in conservation and related fields. "Big Hugh," evangel of soil conservation and arch foe of soil erosion, remains on the job.

Avocado research

THE CLIMATE of Puerto Rico is well suited to avacado production. Frost is unknown and hurricane injury, the major weather hazard, may be expected only about once every 11 years, as in Florida. Consequently the Federal Experiment Station at Mayaguez has done considerable work on the fruit. This has shown the need for many changes and improvements, in particular, for wider use of superior Guatemalan varieties as well as of hybrids from both Guatemala and Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rican varieties are too thin-skinned for long-distance shipment. The improved varieties also have more favorable bearing seasons.

Use of the improved varieties recommended by the Federal Experiment Station would improve the possibility of export sales and also lengthen the season for avocados on the home market of Puerto Rico. The fruit is now available for only about 3 months in the year. It is important enough as a food source to warrant greater care in cultivation, disease protection, and off-season production. The raw Fuerte avocado contains about 245 calories of food energy, 1.7 grams of protein, 26.4 of fat, and 5 of total carbohydrates per 100 grams (a little over 3 ounces); the fruit also contains calcium, phosphorus, iron, vitamin A, riboflavin, niacin, and vitamin C in appreciable quantities.

Report from Van Buren

The Van Buren Soil Conservation District, Spencer, Tenn., sends in its 1950 annual report, a handsome illustrated print job on slick paper.

Brief but important

Peter Bisset

Scottish-born Peter Bisset, who was for many years a USDA horticulturist until his retirement in 1939, died in Washington, D. C., March 29, aged 83.

Feed-grain production

Secretary Brannan has announced a drive to increase 1951 feed-grain production. If interested in more details about this, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 799.

Now University of Rhode Island

The name of Rhode Island State College has been changed to the University of Rhode Island, in accordance with a bill passed unanimously by the State Senate March 22, which was signed by the Governor the next day.

Defense Food Order No. 1

This, the first of its kind, was announced April 4, and it restricted inventories and uses of castor oil beginning the following day. If you want to have a copy *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 833.

Rutin

"Flavonoid Substances in Capillary Fragility," the Symposium Section of the International Medical Digest for March 1951, is a documented discussion that places the work of James F. Couch and associates at our Eastern Regional Research Laboratory on rutin in its historical and scientific context. If your interest lies in the rutin field, you will find it helpful. The Library gets this periodical.

Falba Johnson retires

Falba L. Johnson, B. A., M. A., M. S., well known for her excellent editorial work in the Department—first in Bureau of Plant Industry, then in Office of Information's Division of Publications, and finally with Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering—retired March 31. For several years she was chief editor of the Journal of Agricultural Research. Born the Fourth of July at Marion, S. C., a town named for the "Swamp Fox," General Francis Marion of the Revolution, she attended the South Carolina College for Women, Columbia University, and George Washington University.

Books people buy, and why

Justus J. Schiefferes, author of "How to Live Longer," sold books in a New York City bookstore for a month and then wrote "Author in a Bookstore," in Publishers' Weekly for March 31, 1951. Look it up. This author learned many things about books people buy, and why. We'll just quote this on cookbooks: "I mustn't say that I *sold* cookbooks. They were *bought* by the women who examined our large display of them. You could talk about other types of books in the store—fiction, nonfiction—and make recommendations that might be accepted. Even as to dictionaries, the clerk's word carried some weight. But not about cookbooks! It was the one class of book concerning which every woman felt herself a more competent critic and reviewer than any storehand. The prospective buyer would pick a cookbook and start to read the recipes. As soon as she found one she didn't like ('Why that takes more butter than we eat in a week,' one lady told me), she would immediately put the book down. On the other hand, if she saw a recipe she liked, she would immediately look up at you and ask, 'What's the price of this book?'"

Earnings of scientists

If you think you can stand the shock, some of you scientists might like to read "The Earnings of American Men of Science," lead article in the March 30 issue of Science.

Citrus research

If you are interested in what the Citrus Advisory Committee had to say at its recent meeting about Research and Marketing Act projects in this field, plus related information, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 821.

Hambidge in charge

The North American Regional Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization is in Dupont Circle Building, 1344 Connecticut Avenue NW., Washington, D. C. Gove Hambidge, well known in USDA, who was FAO's information director since it began operations, is serving as regional representative.

Author

D. S. Correll, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, is author of "Native Orchids of North America, North of Mexico," volume 26 in a new series of plant-science books edited by Franz Verdoorn and published by Chronica Botanica Co., Waltham, Mass.

Director DiSalle

During early April Director Michael V. DiSalle of the Office of Price Stabilization addressed a luncheon meeting of dignitaries (and others, like the editor) over in USDA. He proved as informal, as candid, and as disarmingly delightful as he has been depicted in the press, the most unbureaucratic of all bureaucrats.

Whey! Whey!

We have two processed papers from Bureau of Dairy Industry, both by James P. Malkames, Jr., Homer E. Walter, and Oscar S. Sager, entitled: "Making a Spread from Hydrolyzed Swiss-Cheese Whey Protein and Cultured Cream," and "Enzymatic Hydrolysis of Whey Protein for Use in Foods." To get copies *write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address at end of the last column, last page, and request by title.

DeWitt C. Wing

Mr. Wing, who was associated with USDA in AAA and Office of Information for some years, died recently, aged 73. A graduate of the University of Illoinois at the turn of the century, and a native of Missouri, he went to Breeders Gazette almost immediately, spending 26 years of notable editing there. Widely known as an agricultural editor and journalist, he was a delightful companion, a man of greatly diversified interests, gentle, well-read, and altogether what every man hopes to attain in his very best friend.

Kudos for annual reports

Annual reports of the bureaus and agencies are often regarded as necessary evils no one reads. This is not necessarily true. April "Sunset," a bright and cheerful-looking magazine published from 576 Sacramento Street, San Francisco 11, and widely available on newsstands and in libraries, gave high praise to this year's annual reports of Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine and Forest Service. They were recommended as fine to enable readers to keep abreast of new developments in the fields of insecticides, pest controls, woodlot and timber management, range management and reseeding, forestry service and research, and tree planting. The reports were found to be valuable reference books, as indeed they always are. Yet this may be the first time a popular magazine went all out for one of them!

Chemicals used in crop production

We have copies of a recent address by Dr. Robert M. Salter, Chief of Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, which contains much valuable information on the wide variety of chemicals now used to foster crop production in the U. S.: Weed killers, fungicides, soil fumigants, blossom-thinning sprays, materials effective in defoliating cotton plants before picking time, preharvest sprays, and so on. If interested, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 756.

Ryerson here

K. A. Ryerson, long in old Bureau of Plant Industry and for a while its Chief, but now Assistant Dean of University of California's College of Agriculture, reported here recently on his work in charge of ECA programs in Thailand, the only country in that part of the world which has long had a stable government. Dean Ryerson, on leave from California, believes rice production in Thailand can be increased 20 percent through breeding and selection alone. A National Agricultural Center is being established about 8 miles from Bangkok.

Some new publications are—

"A Bibliography of Plant Pathology in the Tropics and Latin America," Bibliographical Bulletin No. 14, compiled by Helen V. Barnes and Jessie M. Allen of the USDA Library; "Cuban Trade in Principal Agricultural Products," Statistical Bulletin No. 96, prepared in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, USDA; and "Harvesting, Handling, and Transportation of Citrus Fruits, a Digest of Information on the Subject Published Mostly from 1938 to 1948," Bibliographical Bulletin No. 13, by Dean H. Rose, Harold T. Cook, and W. H. Redit, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering.

Wheat-germ for survival

Dr. B. Connor Johnson, K. W. Keane, and Eva M. Cohn of the University of Illinois College of Agriculture reported to the recent national meeting of the American Chemical Society that feeding wheat-germ oil to the mothers promotes the survival of baby rats. Litters of rats from mothers fed artificial fat quickly died off; those of mother rats fed wheat-germ oil survived. Moreover, when some of the rats fed artificial fat and unable to bear young as a result were given wheat-germ oil, they became able to reproduce. The new material is said not to be related to vitamin E, also found in wheat-germ oil, but may be a vitamin, a vitaminlike chemical, or a substance that helps some known vitamin do its work.

Promotions in FAR

Dr. Ross E. Moore, a native of North Dakota with a degree in engineering from the South Dakota State School of Mines, who took his doctorate in agriculture at University of California, has been named an assistant director, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. He will have primary responsibility for coordinating USDA's technical assistance operations, an important phase of the Point IV Program. He was employed by a fruit company in Central America for 12 years before he returned to the U. S. to take his doctorate, and was on the staff of the University of California's College of Agriculture, 1937–40. He then joined the USDA Regional Salinity Laboratory at Riverside, Calif., and has been in charge of FAR's Technical Collaboration Branch since 1944. The assistant chief of the Branch, Dr. Glenn L. Taggart, a native of Utah with a doctor's degree from University of Wisconsin in rural sociology and agricultural economics, has been named acting chief: he first joined Bureau of Agricultural Economics, then entered FAR in 1944.

FOOD PRICES AND FARMERS

On April 24 the Secretary presented a statement before the House Committee on Agriculture on "Food Prices and Farm Returns." It refutes with plain and interesting facts a great many false statements made recently regarding farmers' income, parity prices, and food prices as the chief cause of inflation. To get copies *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 987.

That chicken flavor

After so many generations have enjoyed it, scientists are now hard at work fractionating and identifying the chemicals that make chicken smell and taste so luscious. Look in "Food Research" (the official publication of the Institute of Food Technologists) volume 15, page 322, and volume 16, page 137, and you will find work on this subject by Robert J. Bouthilet of the University of California College of Agriculture. The flavor can be steam-distilled from chicken broth, but just what its composition is remains to be determined.

Agricultural evangels

Stanley Andrews, Director of Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, recently returned from another trip to the Far East, commented with much feeling on the fine common sense approach of the former USDA, State-extension, and Land-Grant College personnel working on the Point IV program in Ceylon, India, and elsewhere. They are true agricultural evangels and every one of them can and does exert a stupendous influence in a very large area. Mr. Andrews gave unstinted praise to these farm missionaries.

Dr. Kotila dead

Dr. John Ernest Kotila, 58, senior pathologist in the Division of Sugar Plant Investigations, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, died March 27 of heart ailment. A native of Michigan, he received B. S. and M. S. degrees from Michigan State College and a Ph. D. from the University of Michigan. He came to USDA in 1930 from the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station where he had served as research assistant in plant pathology. One of his outstanding contributions was the discovery that boron deficiency in Michigan soils caused sugar-beet tops to blacken and eventually decay. He showed that the condition could be controlled by applications of ordinary borax to the soil. More recently Dr. Kotila's research was concerned with strains of Rhizoctonia, cause of root rot of sugar beet and other plants.

Chairman Ramspeck

You are no doubt familiar with the career of Robert Ramspeck, lawyer, legislator, publisher, and business executive, a native of Decatur, Ga., who was appointed Chairman of the U. S. Civil Service Commission in March, an appointment that was unanimously confirmed. After serving in a variety of capacities and being a member of the Georgia Legislature, Mr. Ramspeck became a Member of the House of Representatives from Georgia, serving 1929–45, and was Chairman of the House Civil Service Committee 1935–45. He resigned from Congress January 1, 1946, to become executive vice president of the Air Transport Association of America. His appointment as Chairman of the Civil Service Commission by President Truman was universally acclaimed, for his intelligent interest in Federal Government employees and his eager desire to improve the Federal Civil Service are well-known.

4–H Camp

The twenty-first National 4–H Club Camp will be held in Washington, D. C., from 8 p. m., June 13, until 9 p. m., June 20. Nearly 200 outstanding 4–H youth, representing practically every State and Territory, are expected to attend.

How-to-do-it books

Did you know there was a guide to how-to-do-it books? There is, entitled "How-to-do-it Books: A Selected Guide," by Robert E. Kingery, published by the R. R. Bowker Co., New York City, at $3.50 a copy. Our Library has a copy.

Mail-order romance report

More than 4 million dairy cows in nearly half a million herds are now in artificial-breeding associations and 1 cow out of every 6 in the U. S. will probably be bred artificially during 1951. For statistical details on the associations, herds, bulls, and cows, State by State, *write* the eritor of *USDA* and ask for No. 893.

Cotton research gains

Dr. H. D. Barker, who heads research in cotton breeding and diseases for USDA, announced recently that production research benefits today's cotton growers considerably by providing new planting materials, techniques, and tools that have come into widespread use since the end of World War II. If you want more details, we have a mimeographed statement: *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 811.

Stiebeling to FAO meeting

Dr. Hazel K. Stiebeling, Chief of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, flew to Rome during April, at the request of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to attend a 2-week progress and planning session of the joint FAO–WHO Advisory Committee on Nutrition, of which she is a member. Incidentally, just before Director-General Norris E. Dodd of FAO left for Rome, he wrote Secretary Brannan thanking him for invaluable assistance provided FAO, especially in its formative phase, by staff members of USDA, notably by the late "Bill" Jump.

Heavier lines for REA

Because farmers are using more power than was anticipated, the Rural Electrification Administration has approved new standard specifications, calling for voltages double those of present standard lines. Most rural power lines carried 2,300 volts in single-phase lines before the REA program; the first REA specifications calling for 6,900 were later revised to 7,200 volts. Most earlier REA specifications were designed on a basis of about 100 kilowatt-hours usage per month per consumer; now, in same instances 300 to 400 kilowatt-hours is the rule. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 885.

Report from Puerto Rico

Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Ramon Colon-Torres of Puerto Rico, a farm-born career man educated at Cornell, recently addressed the Secretary's Staff Conference on the Puerto Rico farm program he is carrying on jointly with Nathan Koenig of the Office of the Secretary. Intended to develop a comprehensive agricultural program for the Island, it involves the effective use of land resources generally. Few cf you perhaps realize that if the U. S. had the same population density as Puerto Rico we should number 1.9 billion, almost as many people as there now are in the entire world! To say that Puerto Rico really has a problem of pressure on land resources is a gross understatement.

Cream standards

The USDA has extended to June 30, 1951, the time allowed interested parties to file their views and comments on the proposed U. S. standards for grades of cream used in butter manufacturing.

Peach production

If you want a mimeograph of facts telling how research has produced great gains in the peach industry, as surveyed by Dr. F. P. Cullinan, Assistant Chief of Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 831.

J. Allan Clark retired

Mr. Clark, a native of North Dakota, educated at North Dakota College and University of Minnesota, who joined Bureau of Plant Industry in 1911, has retired after 40 years of service. During this time he played a major role in the development of stem-rust-resistant spring-wheat varieties. The new and now widely grown Cadet and Pilot varieties originated from his breeding work. He aided in the organization of the Cooperative Regional Spring Wheat Improvement Program and has served as its coordinator since 1928.

Big stuff

Those of you interested in food in large quantities might find something useful in these new publications: "Food Purchasing Guide for Group Feeding," by Rosalind C. Lifquist and Edith B. Tate of Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, a processed reprint from Agriculture Handbook No. 16; and "Canning in Glass Jars in Schools and Institutional Kitchens," by Bertha F. Olsen of PMA, which is Agriculture Handbook No. 11. Obtain as you do other printed publications, as often explained herein; the editor of *USDA* has no supply. The first one mentioned is for sale from the Superintendent of Documents at 25 cents; there are no free copies.

From Forest Service

Recreational use of the National Forests attained an all-time high during the past year when Americans made 27,367,800 visits to lands administered by Forest Service. If you would like more details on this, *write* for No. 871. If you would like some background material about Arbor Day to serve you next year, we have that also. April 10 was the seventy-ninth anniversary of the first Arbor Day which was conceived by J. Sterling Morton when a member of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture. Mr. Morton was Secretary of Agriculture from March 7, 1893 to March 5, 1897. For Arbor Day material request No. 874. *Write* the editor of *USDA*, name and address end of last column, last page.

Vermont doings

The cornerstone ceremony for the Bertha M. Terrill Home Economics Building and the dedication of the Joseph L. Hills Agricultural Science Building were held the same day by the University of Vermont, March 26, with both Miss Terrill and Dean Hill present. Miss Terrill, a native Vermonter, and a graduate of Mount Holyoke College, was the first woman to join the faculty of the State University and the first exponent in Vermont of what was then termed "domestic science." Dean Hill, who has been on emeritus status since 1942, is a native of Boston, educated at Massachusetts State College, as it was then called. He joined three other agricultural staff members at the University of Vermont in 1888, became director of the Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station in 1893, and Dean of the Vermont College of Agriculture in 1898.

Miss Rokahr's travels

Miss Mary Rokahr who is in charge of home economics work in Extension Service, reports in February Journal of Home Economics on a foreign trip she took last summer, under the title of "Home Economists the World Around." It's worth looking up.

Rural telephones

Richard G. Schmitt, Jr., of Rural Electrification Administration, is the author of a brief article on "Farmers' Mutual Telephone Companies," that appeared in the Journal of Farm Economics for February. The development and characteristics of such phone companies are given as background for part of the rural telephone job REA is undertaking.

Gen. Johnson leaves

Gen. Harry H. Johnson, at his own request, has been relieved of his duties as codirector of the Mexican-United States Commission for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease. He has served since May 1948, but the promising success of the fight against the disease in Mexico made him feel that his services were no longer required. He left with the whole-hearted commendation of Secretary Brannan.

Rather fascinating

That's how you'll find new Circular No. 867 by L. P. Batjer of Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering and M. B. Hoffman of Cornell University Experiment Station, N. Y. It is on "Fruit Thinning With Chemical Sprays," things like the dinitro chemicals, a family with very long names we hesitate to repeat here for lack of space. Apples get most consideration, but the thinning of pears, apricots, and plums also comes in for discussion. Then there are the napthaleneacetic acid thinning sprays, if you can pronounce the word. Procure as you do other printed publications; ye editor hath no supply.

Further changes in PMA

The letter of resignation submitted March 30 by John I. Thompson, Assistant Administrator for Marketing, Production and Marketing Administration, was accepted April 4 by Secretary Brannan, who commended Mr. Thompson for his service. Mr. Thompson resigned to reassume the presidency of John I. Thompson & Co., a firm of which he is major owner. On April 5, Gus G. Giessler, Administrator of PMA, announced that Roy W. Lennartson who, since March 8, has been serving as Director of the Office of Materials and Facilities, would return to his former position as Deputy Assistant Administrator of PMA for Marketing; that L. B. Taylor, who has been serving as Director of the Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch since March 8, would return to his former position as Director of the Office of Materials and Facilities; and that Thomas B. Joyce, Deputy Director of the ACP Branch would serve as its acting Director.

May 9, 1951 Vol. X, No. 10

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR MAY 23, 1951

THE HONOR AWARDS

AS IS customary this, the first issue of *USDA* to appear after the Honor Awards ceremony was held in Sylvan Theatre, Washington, D. C., on May 15, contains the names of the winners of Distinguished Service, Superior Service, and 40-year Length-of-Service Awards, along with the citations of the first two groups. The Honor Awards Program is now a lusty and vigorous child of 5. Its fifth anniversary finds us reluctantly mobilizing in the sincere hope that another war will be avoided. At such a time, of course, the fundamental character of agriculture is emphasized. Meanwhile the Honor Awards Program has gained prestige and importance and is a major incentive for the performance of the public service our Department of Agriculture renders in the most efficient, economical, and effective manner possible. Those who have received the awards may well have a sense of fulfillment, a consciousness of duty well done. May the bestowal of the awards incite others to still greater dedication and to more devoted service henceforth!

For Distinguished Service

WALTER H. EBLING, Bureau of Agricultural Economics; Madison, Wis.: For adapting the services of the Wisconsin Federal-State Crop Reporting Service to the problems and needs of the State in such a way that it has become an integral and vital part of the rural economy of the State.

DR. SEVERIN O. FLADNESS, Bureau of Animal Industry; Washington, D. C.: For inspirational leadership in planning and directing livestock disease control and eradication functions of BAI, which has added immeasurably to the Nation's economy and the Department's prestige in this country and abroad.

CHRISTOPHER M. GRANGER, Forest Service; Washington, D. C.: For distinguished and dynamic leadership of National Forest administration, with special emphasis on the development of forest, range, watershed, and recreation management.

EARL W. LOVERIDGE, FS; Washington, D. C.: For his original work in forest, range, and related wild-land conservation fields; for his skill in developing and applying principles of scientific management; and for developing and administering an effective inspection system.

CARL F. W. MUESEBECK, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine; Washington, D. C.: For his contributions to science and public welfare as an internationally recognized insect taxonomist; for his ability to inspire and guide his associates in entomology throughout the world in the acquisition and dissemination of information on destructive and beneficial insects; and for his devotion to duty.

RUTH O'BRIEN, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics; Beltsville, Md.: For effective pioneering and leadership in the collection of body measurements as a basis for developing a practical and scientific system for sizing garments and patterns for American women and children.

SCHOOL LUNCH RESEARCH UNIT, HNHE; Beltsville, Md.: For notable research pertaining to the serving of nutritious, acceptable, and economical lunches, thus helping to promote the health and well-being of the Nation's children.

VITAMIN A RESEARCH UNIT, HNHE; Beltsville, Md.: For pioneer research in vitamin A nutrition; for establishing vitamin A requirements of young adults; for demonstrating variation in availability to the body of carotenes from different foods; for increasing the specificity of the vitamin A bioassay.

Canned vegetable set-aside

Defense Food Order No. 2 established the percentage of the 1951 canned-vegetable pack to be set aside for defense use. Commodities covered were canned asparagus, lima beans, green and wax beans, carrots sweet corn, green peas, pumpkin, sweetpotatoes, tomatoes, tomato catsup, and tomato paste. Set-asides ranged from 12 percent for asparagus to 27 for carrots. The order was effective April 17.

For Superior Service

JOHN A. AREY, Extension Service; Raleigh, N. C.: For his leadership in introducing better methods of breeding, feeding, and management of dairy cattle which has contributed significantly to the recognition of the dairy industry throughout the State and nationally.

DR. BERNARD AXELROD, Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry; Albany, Calif.: For a highly important basic contribution to agricultural chemistry through the discovery of a new reaction involved in the growth and ripening of plants.

DR. LOIS B. BACON, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations; Washington, D. C.: For her resourceful initiative and perseverance in the execution of her duties; and for her professional competence which has contributed greatly to the reputation of the economic staff work of the Department.

WILFRED W. BALLARD, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering; Experiment, Ga.: For research culminating in the production of a superior cotton and for devising new techniques in cotton breeding.

HERBERT G. BAROTT, Bureau of Animal Industry; Beltsville, Md.: For research which determined oxygen consumption, carbon dioxide production, and optimum temperature for incubating eggs; the heat production, oxygen consumption, and carbon dioxide production of chickens of different ages; the effect of temperature, humidity, and light on growth of chickens; and for discovering the stimulating effect of ultraviolet light on egg production.

JOHN ALEXANDER BARTON, EXT; Ballinger, Tex.: For his successful teaching of scientific farming resulting in greater farm income, and enrichment of rural life; and for inspiring young people to choose agriculture as a way of life.

DR. ELMER A. BEAVENS, AIC; Pasadena, Calif.: For the development of a successful commercial process for the preservation of the natural qualities of citrus fruits in the form of frozen purees.

CLAIBORNE H. BEASLEY, Production and Marketing Administration; San Francisco, Calif.: For his guidance, leadership, and effectiveness of actions taken in solving varied and difficult problems in connection with processed foods inspection and standardization activities.

REX BERESFORD, EXT; Ames, Iowa: For his resourcefulness and ability in changing beef cattle feeding from a speculative enterprise to a stable business,

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sturdy enough to withstand bad years, and steady enough to insure the Nation's beef supply; for creating nationally copied extension teaching techniques.

HARRY F. BLANEY, Soil Conservation Service; Los Angeles, Calif.: For unusual and invaluable contributions to western agriculture by developing a practical method of predicting consumptive water use under the many varied conditions found throughout the west.

HARVEY S. BOYUM, Farmers Home Administration; Milaca, Minn.: For extraordinary achievement in assisting families to successfully plan and carry out improved pasture and dairy programs; and for his initiative in helping to coordinate the efforts of Federal agricultural employees in his area for mutual benefit.

THOMAS P. BRANCH, Rural Electrification Administration; Washington, D. C.: For developing wiring specifications and wiring inspection programs, and for obtaining National Electrical Code recognition of rural electrical problems for the benefit of rural people.

JUDD BROOKS, EXT; Jackson, Tenn.: For building up the agriculture of Tennessee through constant work with county extension agents and the local people; and for his significant work with rural boys and girls.

ARTHUR LAWRENCE CAMPBELL, EXT; San Bernardino, Calif.: For careful testing, scientific observation, effective teaching, factual writing, and persistent campaigning that changed agronomic practices of areas of San Bernardino County through the use of irrigated and dry land pastures in the production of dairy and meat animals.

WINIFIELD S. CATON, SCS; Colorado Springs, Colo.: For his devotion to duty and demonstrated ability to gain the confidence of people which has resulted in a display of unusual leadership in laying out and obtaining soil conservation practices.

LOUIS C. CHESNUT, Farm Credit Administration; Spokane, Wash.: For initiative, skill, and effectiveness in conducting area classification and loan experience studies on a broad scale and effectively bringing about their adoption.

FRANKLIN J. CRIDER, SCS; Beltsville, Md.: For his leadership in developing and carying out nursery observational studies leading to domestication and use for conservation purposes of native and foreign grasses not previously available to farmers and ranchers.

DR. C. BRADFORD CROSTON, AIC; Peoria, Ill.: For fundamental research and development work on fibers from the corn protein, zein, which led to the first major commercial production of a vegetable protein fiber for textile use.

STANTON EDWARD CULL, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine; New York, N. Y.: For heroism beyond the call of duty which resulted in saving the life of a 13-year-old boy who had broken through the ice into deep water while skating.

DR. HAROLD R. CURRAN, Bureau of Dairy Industry; Washington, D. C.: For scientific contributions to and leadership in the field of the physiology and control of bacterial spores.

JAMES P. DAVIS, PMA; Little Rock, Ark.: For stimulating the interest of Negro farmers and their families in the programs of the Department; for contributing to their welfare; and for promoting interracial good will and understanding.

ELSIE H. DAWSON, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics; Beltsville, Md.: For efficient and productive research on diverse and urgent wartime and postwar food problems; for fundamental developments in subjective and objective evaluation of food quality; and for coordinating, systematizing, and improving methods of evaluating palatability.

HARRY H. DELL, SCS; Vienna, Ill.: For his contribution to the agriculture of southern Illinois by helping develop a permanent-type grassland agriculture through assistance to farmers of the Johnson County Soil Conservation District.

GEORGE C. EDLER, Bureau of Agricultural Economics; Washington, D. C.: For unusual accomplishments of national and international significance in the development of seed statistics and improved methods of estimating seed production, resulting in his recognition as the foremost authority in his field.

TALCOTT W. EDMINSTER, SCS; Blacksburg, Va.: For his leadership in unifying the efforts of many different groups toward development and carrying out of a soil and water conservation research program that has solved many soil and water conservation problems in the Southeast.

DR. JOHN L. ETCHELLS, AIC; Raleigh, N. C.: For research on the preservation of vegetables, resulting in the widespread commercial production of pasteurized pickle products and the more efficient utilization of the supply of vegetables generally.

DR. CYRIL D. EVANS, AIC; Peoria, Ill.: For fundamental research and development work on fibers from the corn protein, zein, which led to the first major commercial production of a vegetable protein fiber for textile use.

FRANCIS H. EYRE, Forest Service; St. Paul, Minn.: For his accomplishment and leadership in research in forest management, especially in the fields of silviculture, regeneration, nursery practices, and forest tree seed.

FRANCES I. FOX, FHA; Washington, D. C.: For exceptional service in assisting State directors and their staffs strengthen rural communities by securing cooperation of agricultural and community groups needed to help borrowers become more productive, more secure, and better able to assume community responsibilities.

NORMAN E. GARBER, SCS; Upper Darby, Pa.: For demonstrating unusual leadership and ability to help farmers develop conservation farm plans; and for his unusual ability to develop techniques for training Service personnel.

WILMER M. GRAYSON, PMA; University, La.: For his skill, ingenuity and resourcefulness in developing and administering sugar programs in the Mainland sugarcane area.

JOHN H. GRIFFIN, FCA; Wichita, Kans.: For his demonstrated ability to render exceptional service in a field much broader than identified with his position; and his keen understanding of broad appraisal principles and his tireless efforts to be of service to the Federal Land Bank and its borrowers.

MARION C. HOLLAND, FHA; Goldsboro, N. C.: For unusual results in assisting borrower families to greatly improve their farming practices and living standards in a heavy case-load area.

CLAUD L. HORN, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations; Washington, D. C.: For commendable foresight in anticipating the Nation's need for a Western Hemisphere supply of a jutelike soft fiber to supplement imports from the Far East; and for his outstanding leadership in establishing a new fiber crop, kenaf (*Hibiscus cannabinus*), thereby making an exceptional contribution to national and hemispheric security.

ROBERT E. HUTTON, BAI; Miles City, Mont.: For his contribution to the successful development of the new breed of meat-type hog known as the Hamprace, and for his devotion to duty far beyond the normal expectation in the face of progressively poor health.

EDWARD O. IDDINGS, FHA; Coeur d'Alene, Idaho: For unusual courage in rescuing a woman from drowning and attempting to locate and rescue her companion.

ROBERT H. INGRAM, REA; Washington, D. C.: For his effective leadership in developing a specific informational program for strengthening REA borrowers' service to rural people, and for his significant and unusual contribution to the initial phases of the new rural telephone program.

HOMOSELLE R. JARVIS, HNHE; Beltsville, Md.: For her dependability, thoroughness, and readiness to assume responsibilities beyond those assigned her, and for her contribution to the efficient functioning of the Housing and Household Equipment Division.

JOHN WILLIAM JEFFRIES, EXT; Greensboro, N. C.: For his successful work with Negro farmers in developing more and better livestock owned by Negroes in Alamance County; and for developing a program which has advanced Negro farming to a high degree.

LAWRENCE H. JOHN, FS; Porterville, Calif.: For courageous action that saved the lives of his 5-man crew and himself when unexpectedly overtaken by a forest fire; and for exposing himself at moments of danger to assure that his crew remained protected, thereby suffering burns himself.

JAMES R. KABLER, FHA; Munfordville, Ky.: For constantly identifying the work of the Farmers Home Administration with good farming and good farm living, and assisting borrowers to become outstanding farm families in their communities.

DR. JAMES F. KENDRICK, BDI; Washington, D. C.: For developing the Dairy Herd Improvement Association proved-sire program, including the formulation of the proved-sire list and a genealogical recording of proved-sire data.

CARL E. LARSON, FHA; Pasco, Wash.: For meritorious service to agriculture and rural life through agricultural credit, technical assistance, and community and commercial organization to settlers on newly irrigated lands in the Columbia Basin and Yakima Reclamation Projects.

HAROLD K. LAWSON, FS; Portland, Oreg.: For his zeal, initiative, and success in developing greatly improved radio equipment to met communications requirements of land management agencies, resulting in marked savings to the Government, and usefulness for certain military and search-and-rescue communications purposes.

FRANKLIN L. LIEBENSTEIN, EXT; Austin, Minn.: For influencing the farm people of Mower County to improve their practices of growing crops and producing livestock; and for building one of the most successful programs of 4-H Club work.

HARRY V. LITZELFELNER, REA; St. Louis, Mo.: For helping rural people achieve efficient and economical electric service by assisting their electric cooperatives in solving complex management problems and developing their own management skills.

REDDEN T. LONG, BAI; Brooksville, Fla.: For establishing an exemplary work record; and for demonstrating exceptional leadership, initiative, industry, and devotion to duty.

CLIFTON D. LOWE, EXT; Washington, D. C.: For his ability and leadership in fostering and developing a friendly, workable relationship between the veterinary profession and educational institutions; for pioneering practical, healthy, adequate meat production as the goal of all members of the livestock industry.

LEA ETTA LUSK, EXT; Brenham, Tex.: For her contribution to the enrichment of rural life through successful advocacy of self-sufficiency in farm family living, and promotion of understanding of Negro problems; for her ability to train leaders, and to inspire youth.

IRIS ELIZABETH MACUMBER, EXT; Dayton, Ohio: For exceptional planning, organization, and leadership ability in developing extension programs for women and youth; for her enthusiasm and initiative in enlisting the cooperation of volunteer local leaders in promoting the improvement of home and community life.

EARL MAHARG, EXT; Los Angeles, Calif.: For improving the feeding, management, and breeding of dairy cows in Los Angeles County demonstrated by the average production of 478 pounds of butterfat from each of the 30,000 cows tested monthly.

STANLEY J. MARSDEN, BAI; Beltsville, Md.: For research in the field of poultry husbandry; for his contributions to the turkey industry, particularly with respect to the development and improvement of the Beltsville Small White Turkey; and the establishment and early operation of the National Turkey Improvement Plan.

HARRY E. MCCARTNEY, FHA, Kingfisher, Okla.: For exceptional results with borrower families which has achieved widespread changes from nonprofit cash-crop operations to balanced and profitable diversified farming systems.

MAUDE P. MCINNES, EXT; Raleigh, N. C.: For developing rural leadership; for organizing and planning educational programs that serve as an inspiration to other extension workers; and for her initiative in helping Wake County farm women establish one of the State's outstanding curb markets.

WILLIAM T. MCKEOWN, FCA; Washington, D. C.: For his initiative, skill, and effectiveness in making studies of a creative nature; and for developing economical and efficient work methods and procedures relating to the financial and investment programs of the farm credit system.

DR. THOMAS L. MCMEEKIN, AIC; Wyndmoor, Pa.: For research on milk which resulted in the isolation and characterization of the milk proteins and a new industrial process for production of a bristle fiber from casein.

HOMER C. MITCHELL, SCS; Fort Worth, Tex.: For the development of improved methods and techniques adapted to farm woodland management.

DR. WILLIAM M. MOHLER, BAI; Washington, D. C.: For his work in developing a serological test for the detection of carriers of anaplasmosis.

HARRY K. NEAL, FHA; Madison, Ga.: For demonstrating the successful and rapid transition of borrower-families from single cash-crop cotton farming to more productive and remunerative livestock and dairy farming.

DOROTHY NICKERSON, PMA; Washington, D. C.: For notable contributions to the development and application of the new automatic colorimeter for cotton, an invaluable aid in the grade classification and standardization programs, to the Department's cotton classers and researchers, and to industry.

JULIUS E. NORDBY, BAI; Dubois, Idaho: For his leadership in developing and applying scientific principles of sheep breeding and genetics that have contributed directly to improvement of sheep and wool production in 11 far western States and Texas.

THADDEUS H. PARKS, EXT; Columbus, Ohio: For his vision and leadership in the development of extension entomology; for his contribution to the development of measures to control the Hessian fly; and for leadership in the development of a spray service for Ohio fruit growers.

JOHN E. PARSELL, FHA; Washington, D. C.: For constructive contributions in the field of Government accounting; for unusually effective administrative ability in directing the operations of the Finance Division; and for fostering an exceptional degree of confidence among associates and employees.

GLENN B. PARSONS, FS; Heppner, Oreg.: For effective ranger-district ad-

ministration, involving a varied and heavy ranger-caliber work load; for excellent supervision and training of subordinates and development of unusually high morale; and for effecting cooperation of permittees that promoted conservation, better facilities, and material Government savings.

HOWARD T. PHELPS, FS; Portland, Oreg.: For his skill in public administration through development of working methods in the application of the principles of scientific management in Forest Service job-load analysis, financial planning, allotment procedures, and work planning at the regional level.

MACK B. RAY, FHA; Burnsville, N. C.: For marked improvement in the farm operations and living conditions of an especially large number of borrowers in a mountainous and difficult area through superior farm and home planning and excellent supervision of borrowers.

WILFORD J. RYAN, FHA; Denver, Colo.: For establishing a notable record in training and supervising employees and in devising work methods which returned savings to the Government in terms of time, materials, and money.

EDWARD J. SCHMITZ, FHA; Eldon, Mo.: For getting borrowers to adjust their system of farming to one adapted to the area in which they live and to adopt good management practices; and for superior work organization enabling him to handle a much higher than average case load.

CLARA K. SCHOENBAUER, BDI; Washington, D. C.: For invaluable service to the research personnel of the Dairy Products Research Laboratories in the preparation of difficult technical manuscripts, and unquestioning and recurrent acceptance of responsibilities beyond the scope of assigned duties.

GEORGE A. SCOTT, BAE; Sacramento, Calif.: For exceptional service as agricultural statistician for the State of California where he has developed for the farming interests of his State a comprehensive, timely, and factual statistical service.

FRANCES SCUDDER, EXT; Ithaca, N. Y.: For administering an effective Statewide home demonstration program which annually influences more than 130,000 rural and urban families in New York State.

ARLO B. SEEGMILLER, FS, Ogden, Utah: For major contributions to the accounting system of the Intermountain Region; and for devising an accounting system and analysis of financial statements obtained therefrom, that has contributed much to efficient management of the repair shops and equipment fleet throughout the region.

WILBER L. SEWARD, (deceased) FCA; Spokane, Wash.: For assistance rendered in training National Farm Loan Association personnel and developing well-qualified land bank appraisers; and performance of the duties of his position in such a manner as to reflect favorably upon the Farm Credit Administration.

CAROLINE B. SHERMAN, BAE; Washington, D. C.: For unusual effectiveness in writing, editing, and disseminating economic information to farmers and others; for her skill in helping other authors present their findings in a way well suited to their readers; and for her initiative and devotion to duty.

LLOYD R. SIMONS, EXT; Ithaca, N. Y.: For unusual service as a leader in extension organization and methods, promoting effective team work with cooperating farm organizations, and accomplishing greater direction of the work by farmers themselves; and for valuable contributions to national and State defense programs.

HAROLD C. SLADE, PMA; Washington, D. C.: For his assistance to cotton farmers and industry in the United States and other countries in the field of cotton standardization and classification; and for his leadership in establishing official Government cotton standards for grade, color, and staple.

EVANGELINE SMITH, EXT; Laramie, Wyo.: For unusual ability in adapting food and nutrition programs to changing needs; for devising and demonstrating better extension teaching methods and techniques, and for her cooperation and leadership work in related Statewide health programs.

MARVIN E. SOGARD, FHA; Charles City, Iowa: For meritorious service to Farmers Home Administration families by notable accomplishments in assisting borrowers to improve their soil, crop, and livestock programs.

CARL C. SPELCE, FHA; Marlin, Tex.: For assisting borrowers to develop a sound, productive, and well-coordinated farm program with special emphasis on soil building, insect control, and the development of well-balanced farm units.

FRANCES J. STARR, FHA; Harrisville, W. Va.: For exceptional ability in carrying on the operations of a county office during supervisory vacancies and for superior day-to-day performance.

ALFRED D. STEFFERUD, Office of Information; Washington, D. C.: For his contribution to American agriculture in developing and editing the Agriculture Yearbooks, "Science in Farming," "Grass", and "Trees."

HALBERT G. SWINDLE, FCA; New Orleans, La.: For his demonstrated ability in training and developing young appraisers, rendering assistance in developing capable, well-trained National Farm Loan Association personnel, and skill and effectiveness in performing difficult assignments.

LENORE S. THYE, HNHE; Beltsville, Md.: For widely recognized leadership in kitchen design, through application of principles of work simplification, and through invention, adaptation, and integration of labor-saving devices to produce the design for an outstandingly efficient kitchen.

BERT H. TUCKER, FS; Cedar City, Utah: For developing and forwarding, with active participation of people of two towns, an action program that is correcting erosion on an impaired watershed and siltation of the local reservoir on the Sevier River, Utah, thereby conserving critically needed water.

TALMADGE R. TUCKER, FHA; LaFayette, Ga: For remarkable success in assisting borrowers to adopt better and more productive farming practices, thereby greatly increasing family income, improving family living conditions and providing greater security on the land.

HENRY D. WATTENBARGER, FHA; Kingston, Tenn.: For distinctive and far-reaching contributions to agriculture and rural life in the area he serves, through competent service in the performance of duties as a county supervisor.

WAYNE W. WEISER, EXT; Madison, Minn.: For building up and further developing the agriculture of Lac qui Parle County through close cooperation of the people and a very successful extension program.

JOSEPH W. WELLINGTON, Office of Experiment Stations; Washington, D. C.: For exceptional performance in research administration through promotion and development of harmonious Federal-State relationships and for his contribution to sound research accomplishment in the field of horticulture.

HOWARD W. WHITLOCK, PISAE; Beltsville, Md.: For reorganizing and expanding cartographic operations in the Soil Survey, introducing new methods of map construction and compilation, greatly increasing the quality of maps and quantity of production, reducing costs, and devising methods for advanced planning prior to field mapping.

CATHERINE V. WUELZER, FS; San Francisco, Calif.: For her unusual ability to

train subordinates, coordinate their efforts and organize clerical work of a heavy work-load office; for setting a high standard of Government service much respected among fellow workers; and for unusual proficiency in duty performance.

JOHN L. ZACHARY, FHA; Flemingsburg, Ky.: For exceptional service in promoting and securing improved agriculture on the farms of borrowers, and for giving leadership in activities designed to improve the welfare of farm families in his area.

ACONITIC ACID RESEARCH GROUP, AIC; New Orleans and Baton Rouge, La.: For research on the chemistry of aconitic acid resulting in the development of a commercial process for its recovery from molasses and culminating in its successful production and profitable marketing as a byproduct of sugarcane processing.

CHEMICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE INSECTICIDAL CONSTITUENTS OF PYRETHRIN PROJECT, EPQ; Beltsville, Md.: For significant contributions to knowledge of organic chemistry through the development of methods for the synthesis of pyrethrinlike esters of demonstrated insecticidal value in combatting insects affecting agriculture and health and comfort of man.

CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST, FS; Cass Lake, Minn.: For advanced forest management practices; early application of research results; practical pioneering, as in sample scaling, plantation release, and chemical brush control; prompt, effective timber salvage after severe storms; and for developing better markets for forest products generally.

CIMMARON WORK GROUP, SCS; Clayton, N. Mex.: For unusual success in helping farmers and ranchers to revegetate large acreages of wind-damaged land and in obtaining a highly satisfactory grass-management program throughout the Northeastern New Mexico Soil Conservation District.

COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY UNIT, Office of Plant and Operations; Washington, D. C.: For developing original photographic techniques for high-fidelity recording of the true physical and color characteristics which determine the grade of beef and eggs; and for developing methods and controls for reproducing such color photographic records in large quantities.

DISEASES OF POULTRY UNIT, BAI; Beltsville, Md.: For productive investigations of fowl typhoid, a fatal and economically important poultry disease, culminating in devising procedures for eradicating the disease from large flocks in which the disease had been generally present over a number of years.

DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE REPORTS, Office of Budget and Finance; Washington, D. C.: For exemplary service in coordinating and facilitating recommendations to the Bureau of the Budget and Congress on legislative proposals, assisting the Secretary, his staff, and others in developing Department legislative programs, and providing increasingly efficient legislative reporting services.

ENGINEERING AND MECHANICAL SERVICES SECTION SOILS GROUP, PISAE; Beltsville, Md.: For its contribution to research through the design and development of specialized research equipment.

FATTY ACID PURIFICATION RESEARCH GROUP, AIC; Wyndmoor, Pa.: For the development of a process for the production of an improved technical grade of oleic acid from inedible animal fats, which has proved to be suitable for industrial application, thus broadening the market for these products.

FEDERAL EXPERIMENT STATION in PUERTO RICO, OES; Mayaguez, P. R.: For exceptional achievement in research on problems of tropical agriculture.

FINANCIAL REPORTS SECTION, PMA; Washington, D. C.: For its initiative, effort, and performance of duties of unusual difficulty and scope; and for achieving a significant economy of operation, accompanied by sustained high morale and enthusiasm of employees.

HINTON WORK UNIT, SCS; Hinton, Okla.: For unusually high production during the fiscal year 1950.

NORTHERN UTAH WORK GROUP, SCS, Tremonton, Utah: For successful planning and carrying into execution a difficult conservation program where unusually severe erosion conditions existed on the dry farm lands of the district.

"OPERATION SNOWBOUND" PROJECT, Intermountain Region, FS; Ogden, Utah: For unusual service to agriculture and rural life performed under trying and hazardous conditions during the blizzards of January and February 1949 in the State of Utah.

"OPERATION SNOWBOUND" PROJECT, Rocky Mountain Region, FS; Denver, Colo.: For unusual service to agriculture and rural life performed under trying and hazardous conditions during the blizzards of January and February 1949 in Northwestern Nebraska.

PECTIC ENZYME RESEARCH PROJECT, AIC; Albany, Calif.: For important fundamental research contributions to agricultural industry and to science through establishment of the characteristics of pectic enzymes.

SIMPLE REFRACTOMETER DEVELOPMENT GROUP, PMA; Beltsville, Md.: For an unusual contribution to science and industry in the development of a simple and inexpensive precision refractometer for determining accurately, more quickly, and with a minimum of technical skill, the iodine number of freshly pressed oil from certain oil-bearing seeds.

U. S. SALINITY LABORATORY, PISAE; Riverside, Calif.: For conducting fundamental research and developing methods for reclamation and management of saline soils in the irrigated sections of the West.

Length-of-Service Awards

THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYEES received Length-of-Service Awards for 40 or more years of service in USDA as of May 15, 1951. Awards to Washington metropolitan area employees were made at the Honor Awards Ceremony; awards to field personnel will be made later at their official headquarters.

BARTON, ARTHUR G., BAI—So. St. Joseph, Mo.; BEIER, FRED W., JR., BAE—Denver, Colo.; BERGER, HERBERT C., BAI—Opelousas, La.; BISSET, DAVID A., PISAE—Savannah, Ga.; BOWERSOX, WILLIAM I., BAI—Cheyenne, Wyo.; CLARK, J. ALLEN, PISAE (retired)—Beltsville, Md.; DAYTON, WILLIAM A., FS—Washington, D. C.; DONOVAN, HENRY A., AIC—Washington, D. C.; FRENCH, EDWIN S., SOL—Albuquerque, N. Mex.; FROST, FRED C., PISAE—Beltsville, Md.; GARVER, RAYMOND D., FS—Washington, D. C.; GERRY, ELOISE, FS—Madison, Wis.; GREEN, GARNER A., PISAE—Beltsville, Md.; HABECKER, I. NEWTON, BAI—Springfield, Ill.; HEINTZLEMAN, B. FRANK, FS—Juneau, Alaska; HEISS, FRANK C., PMA—Washington, D. C.; HILTON, HUBER C., FS—Denver, Colo.; HOAR, CROSBY A., FS (retired)—Philadelphia, Pa.; HOUSER, HOWARD A., PISAE—Beltsville, Md.; HUNT, GEORGE M., FS—Madison, Wis.; HUSMAN, ADAM A., BAI—Raleigh, N. C.; KIENE, EDITH, FS—Denver, Colo.; KOTOK, EDWARD I., FS—Washington, D. C.; MATHENY, CHARLES M., PISAE—Beltsville, Md.; MCLEOD, LUTHER WILSON, HNHE—Beltsville, Md.; MEIXEL, EARL J., BAI—New Orleans, La.; MURPHY, EDWARD J., PMA—Washington, D. C.; PETERSON, PEARL, FS—Juneau, Alaska; PHILLIPS, ROY A., FS—Billings, Mont.; REBOLD, GEORGE P., BAI—Berkeley, Calif.; RICHARDSON, HOWARD B., PMA— Washington, D. C.; RIESER, ETTA L., PISAE—Beltsville, Md.; SHIELDS, ROBERT W., FS—Philadelphia, Pa.; SHORTEN, HARRY L., BAI—Denver, Colo.; SIEGLER, EDOUARD H., EPQ—Beltsville, Md.; SOBCZYK, JOSEPH F., BAI—Omaha, Nebr.; STANTON, T. RAY, PISAE—Beltsville, Md.; TAYLOR, ROBERT L., PISAE—Beltsville, Md.; TEED, RYLE R., FS—Silver City, N. Mex.; THERA, JOHN J., BAI—So. St. Paul, Minn.; TORNOW, HENRY, BAI—Denver, Colo.; WHITNEY, LYLE B., BAI—Albany, N. Y.; WOOD, WILLIAM B., EPQ—Washington, D. C.; ZIMMERLI, OTTO A., FS—Washington, D. C.

Cash Awards

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS have received cash awards for adopted suggestions during the period of March 1 through March 31. (Detailed information concerning the suggestions may be

secured from the Bureau Efficiency Award Committee.)

Forest Service—ROBERT W. APPLEBY, Corvallis, Oreg., $10; JOHN P. BURKE, Deadwood, S. Dak., and VIRGIL STEPHENS, Marcell, Minn., joint award, $75; MARY P. JOYNER, Atlanta, Ga., $50; RELL H. LINKER, Rutland, Vt., $25; BRUCE W. SCOTT, Park Falls, Wis., $25.

Library—DOUGLAS L. BROWN, JR., Washington, D. C., $10.

Office of Plant and Operations—FREDERICK B. S. MAGRUDER, Washington, D. C., $75.

Production and Marketing Administration—KENNETH L. BOOZ and BETTY GENE KING, Manhattan, Kans., joint award, $55; LUTHER W. BRYANT, Raleigh, N. C., $60; LOUIS F. CANEPA, New Orleans, La., $50; ANN K. GRYDER, Washington, D. C., $30; VELMA A. HODGES, Washington, D. C., $10; THOMAS C. JURJEVICH, Des Moines, Iowa, $90; WILLARD A. KIMMEL, Portland, Oreg., $30; BETTY GENE KING, Manhattan, Kans., $10; ESTHER L. SULLIVAN, Omaha, Nebr., $20; HELEN M. STUBBS, Boston, Mass., $10; VICTOR E. TRAGER, JR., New Orleans, La., $50.

Soil Conservation Service—C. A. KELLEHER, Upper Darby, Pa., $245; LOWELL B. WOODWARD, Provo, Utah, $25.

Rice-bran oil

RICE, ONE of the oldest crops known to man, is now a source of edible and industrial oil. Several plants put it on the market during 1950 to the extent of about 50 million pounds, worth some 10 million dollars. Existing plants are now trying to increase capacity and several new ones are under way. Rice-bran oil not only increases the value of this ancient crop without detracting from its use for feed and food, but it has some unusually attractive properties. It is obtained from the bran and its extraction improves the value of the bran as feed. When refined and winterized it is more suitable than some commonly used vegetable oils in mayonnaise, salad dressing, and similar emulsified products. Crude rice-bran oil is excellent as a spinning lubricant, and after sulfonation, for other textile uses.

At times this oil has been imported into the U. S. from Japan, for some of its good properties have long been known. But in recent years, as the domestic rice crop set new records, millers here began to look upon the oil as a valuable byproduct, reasoning its production would help offset smaller returns from the grain if larger supplies led to lower prices. However, new methods of recovering rice-bran oil and of preventing spoilage of the stored bran had to be devised. Our Southern Regional Research Laboratory in New Orleans tackled these problems during 1947 as part of a research program that has since provided much of the information needed to establish a large-scale rice-bran oil industry in this country. This new knowledge also points to a ready market for all the oil that can be produced.

Land-inventory maps

THE LAND-CAPABILITY maps prepared by Soil Conservation Service for farmers and ranchers are proving invaluable to many who are not farmers. Their main job is on a million farms in 2,350 Soil Conservation Districts where they help those who work out farm plans, farm by farm. But the maps prove useful to others of all sorts, from Government agencies and business firms to city families looking for country places to buy. About one-fourth of our land has thus far been mapped in the land-capability inventory. The maps tell at a glance what the land of a farm or community can produce and where, and give facts about soils, slope, drainage, and irrigation needs, erosion and its cure or control, fertility, and so on.

Real estate dealers use the maps to guide prospective buyers; land appraisers find them of practical value. Individuals and organizations use them to measure the soundness of proposed investments. Banks and credit institutions find them helpful in carrying out credit programs and planning general economic improvement. Engineers use the information in flood-control, drainage, irrigation, and rural electrification operations, also in locating airports, radio installations, dams, and reservoirs. Highway departments turn to the maps to help them place roads and construction materials. Telephone and telegraph companies, oil and gas concerns that must control erosion along pipe lines, equipment manufacturers who wish to locate potential markets, and food processors hunting land suitable for growing the crops they use, all turn to these maps.

Game and fish organizations and sportsmen's groups like these maps around when they are planning improvement of wildlife habitats. Educators and students use the basic information in map form for planning courses and for classroom study. Agricultural research stations throughout the country use the land-capability maps and data as a basis for their investigations dealing with agricultural problems. The land-capability inventory, eventually to cover all the land of the country, is carried out in cooperation with these stations and fits in with their research. In the new Department bulletin, "The Measure of Our Land," J. G. Steele, SCS, tells about the land-capability inventory—what it is, why it's being made, and how to use the maps that are an important feature of this tremendous endeavor.

Use of milk nutrients

THIS COUNTRY produces about 120 billion pounds of milk annually. Of this quantity about half is sold and used as fluid milk and half is processed into cheese, butter, concentrated and dried milk, and other products. The production of butter and cheese, however, as well as the American custom of liking cream, leaves us with about 6 billion pounds of whey, 48 billion pounds of skim milk, and 2 billion pounds of buttermilk, the nutrients of which are used quite inefficiently. All of these products contain around 4.5 to 5 percent of milk sugar or lactose and around 0.75 percent of ash or minerals. Whey contains, in addition, 0.3 percent of fat, 0.9 of protein, and 0.6 of minerals; skim milk contains only 0.1 percent of fat but 3.6 percent of protein, hence is an important source of the latter; while buttermilk also contains 3.4 percent of protein in addition to 0.4 percent of fat.

Substantially all of the fat in milk is utilized for human food, but the protein, milk sugar, and milk minerals in the skim milk, buttermilk, and whey produced as byproducts, are not always so utilized. Four billion pounds of milk solids from skim milk, buttermilk, and whey are either not being utilized or are utilized at low efficiency from the standpoint of human nutrition. This 4 billion pounds represents about one-fourth of the milk solids that are produced annually. For a number of years research workers in the Bureau of Dairy Industry have devoted themselves to finding good uses for these nutrients. The most important findings to date are the use of buttermilk to make ice cream; whey to make sherbet, fudge, sweet bakery goods, and cream soups; whey protein for cheese spreads; and improved forms of skim milk to make better bread, ice cream, dry mixes, and miscellaneous food products. The following in BDI have all had a hand in this research: B. H. Webb, J. P. Malkames, Jr., H. E. Walter, L. V. Rogers, D. H. Williams, A. H. Stevens, and C. F. Hufnagel.

Bank advertises FHA

NOT LONG AGO a South Carolina bank ran this advertisement: "In the interest of the farmers of Hampton County and in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, The Exchange Bank, Estill, S. C., is pleased to present Mr. Harold Foster, Supervisor, Farmers Home Administration, and Mr. C. W. Thompson, County Agent." Then the advertisement

emphasized the importance of increased cotton production and recommended the pamphlets supplied by Mr. Thompson or the bank. Next it abstracted the program of FHA and advised readers to get in touch with Mr. Foster to find out more.

It is noted that FHA helps farmers live better by better farming, for it provides qualified applicants with credit to operate a farm, to buy or develop one already owned, and to construct needed buildings or improve the land on farms owned. The credit includes expert assistance to the family in planning farm and home operations and on-farm training in sound farm-management methods to make that plan work. The credit is available only to those ineligible for private loans from banks or other lending agencies, but expert advice rapidly converts these borrowers into successful farmers who become eligible for private credit after completing their loan payments.

The advertisement continued that FHA had helped over a thousand Hampton County farmers to date, several hundred of whom had repaid their loans in full. These "graduates" continued farming by the good methods they had learned and using private credit for their operations. On the average they have farm incomes about three times as great as before they got their FHA loans, and that income is spent in Hampton County. The children of these people attend school more regularly than before and their health is better. Local churches and community activities are more prosperous because FHA graduates can now participate more actively. FHA could hardly ask for a better boost than that.

Brief but important

More on milky disease

A new processed publication (E-816) is available from the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. It is "Colonization of the Organism Causing Milky Disease of Japanese Beetle Larvae, 1939–1949," by R. T. White and P. J. McCabe of that Bureau.

Distinguished visitor in Sol

Chief Justice A. M. Christianson of the North Dakota Supreme Court, who was largely responsible for forming the North Dakota Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, of which he was continuously president, attended the staff meeting of USDA's Solicitor recently.

Changes in rabbit grading

The Production and Marketing Administration has announced proposed revisions in inspection and grading regulations for ready-to-cook domestic rabbits. Under these regulations only rabbits that have been officially inspected for condition and wholesomeness could be graded officially for quality. If you want details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 926.

Wages and salaries

People are paid wages for doing just the things they are told to do. They are paid salaries for doing whatever it is up to them to do without being told. In which class are you?

Rural health conference

The Journal of the American Medical Association for April 7 (page 1069) carries an editorial on the Sixth Annual Conference on Rural Health, held recently in Memphis, that some of you might like to get from the Library and read.

Peanut legislation

H. R. 2615, which amended the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 to provide for apportionment of the 1951 peanut national acreage allotment among the States, was approved by the President April 12, and is Public Law 17, Eighty-second Congress.

Dairy-cow rations

We have copies of two new processed publications from the Bureau of Dairy Industry, both by L. A. Moore, who heads its Division of Nutrition and Physiology: "New Values in Good Hay and Silage for Dairy Cows," and "New Ideas on Protein in Dairy-Cow Rations." To get copies request by title from the editor of *USDA*.

Meat-grading fees go up

Effective April 23 the fees charged by USDA for Federal meat-grading service rose from $3.00 to $3.60 per hour so as to maintain the service in the black. Statutes require that the fees charged must provide sufficient revenue to defray the costs of the program. This is a voluntary service offered packers, processors, handlers, and others since 1927 to provide uniform and reliable grade standards for consumers and the meat trade. Beef, veal, lamb, and mutton are graded.

Mink yellow fat

The fellow who gave his girl two mink and told her to raise her own coat probably forgot to warn her that young mink, especially along the West Coast, are often stricken suddenly with "yellow fat," a disease that takes its name from its only visible symptom, a peculiar brownish yellowing of the fat. Partial or total paralysis precedes death. But USDA's Dr. J. R. Gorham and associates believe the disease to be caused by vitamin E deficiency. This research was done at BAI's Fur Animal Disease Research Laboratory, Pullman, Wash. Get details there.

Young farmer to the President

The following letter was recently referred to the USDA addressed to the President by a young farmer with a sense of humor: "Dear Mr. President, I am 10 years old, I have a 7-year-old brother. I wish you could get us information about where to go to learn about dairy and poultry farming. Where to go for the best farming land, and how much a good herd of 10 cows would cost. How much a good working horse would be. I had 6 hens. I gave away 4 of them, and I now have 2. I take very good care of them, so my mother will buy a farm with them. I know how much a farm costs ($7,500). I am working very very hard. Im in a contest for $102,000. You may think I'm too young to worry about farms, but if I want to be a good farmer I have to start early. If you do not send what I asked for I will ask Gov. Dewey. Also, ask my mother not to vote for you at election time. Please send me information about farming. One of your good citizens."

Science writing

April 20 "Science" was its annual book issue. In addition to numerous reviews of scientific books, you will also find of interest "Current Scientific Reading," by Kirtley F. Mather; "Books, Civilization, and Science," by Warren Guthrie; "Science and Literature," by J. R. Pierce; and "The Cosmic Cinema," by Herbert W. Rand. We especially recommend this issue to many of you who do not regularly see this weekly periodical. The Library gets "Science."

Ironing efficiency

Ever since efficiency experts began to apply to homework rules learned in industry for avoiding effort and fatigue and saving time, they have recommended that women sit down to iron. But they still stand. Why? The Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station addressed itself to this question and came up with the answer that most ironing equipment in the average home is unsuited to sit-down work. If you want more details, we have a mimeographed digest of the findings which you may get by writing the editor of *USDA* and asking for "Ironing Efficiently."

Connaughton reassigned

Charles A. Connaughton, Director of the Southern Forest Experiment Station in New Orleans, has been appointed regional forester of Forest Service's Southern Region with headquarters in Atlanta. He succeeds J. Herbert Stone who left recently to become regional forester of the Pacific Northwest Region. A native of Idaho who took his bachelor's degree in forestry at the university of that State, Mr. Connaughton entered FS soon thereafter, served in Ogden, Utah, and Fort Collins, Colo., where he directed the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, and went to the Southern Forest Experiment Station as Director in 1944.

NPA-USDA "treaty"

By means of a Memorandum of Agreement USDA and the National Production Authority have established divided lines of authority for priorities and allocation powers on various food and fiber items that have industrial uses. In general, the agreement defines where specified agricultural products lose their identity as food or feed and go under the industrial authority of NPA. For instance, animal and vegetable fats and oils remain under USDA authority in their natural state, or when transformed into food or feed products. Naval stores go under NPA, subject to prior consultation with USDA, but USDA retains control through the first processing of the gum. Hides, leather, feathers, bristles, and beeswax are assigned to NPA. Cotton remains under USDA—until a bale is opened at the mill for processing. Detailed lists are available.

Dr. Watkins dies

Dr. James M. Watkins, tropical agronomist in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations and head of its Research Development Division, died April 14, of leukemia at the age of 40. A native of Pennington, Ala., he attended the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa and completed work for his B. S. at University of Michigan, took his M. S. in agronomy at Michigan State, and his Ph. D. in the same at Ohio State. He worked with the Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station for 3 years, then 1943–50, became first, agronomist with, and later director of the agricultural station in El Salvador, operated jointly by USDA and the Salvadoran Ministry of Agriculture. He contributed much to El Salvador's agricultural research and extension work. After entering FAR he participated in the agricultural research aspects of the Point IV Program, and became one of USDA's leading authorities on tropical agriculture.

"New Yorker" praises farmers

The "New Yorker" is scarcely an agricultural periodical, but in the April 7 issue you will find a handsome tribute to American farmers.

Peanut research

If interested in recent progress in peanut research, as presented by Andrew F. Freeman and Jett C. Arthur of our Southern Regional Research Laboratory in New Orleans, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 988.

Father-son farming

New Farmers' Bulletin No. 2026 is "Father-Son Farm-Operating Agreements." It is by Max M. Tharp and Harold H. Ellis, agricultural economists in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and is full of practical advice.

Pecan, maple sirup standards

If interested in proposed changes in U. S. standards for grades of unshelled pecans which have been in effect since 1943, or in those to replace the standards for grades of table maple sirup and maple sirup for reprocessing which have been in effect since 1940, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 972 or No. 973, respectively.

Tree poisoning

Undesirable hardwoods that are crowding out more valuable trees are sometimes poisoned down South and the Southern Forest Experiment Station, at New Orleans recommends various formulations of 2,4-D and 2,4,5–T for deadening blackjack oaks. There are many details we shall not try to summarize here but, if interested in the subject, just write this Forest Service Station for more information.

Nellie is a glutton now

Nellie, a milk cow, one of 16 now doing their best to eat a silo empty at Washington State College, can consume 150 pounds of silage in 1 day. One hundred and fifteen pounds is good for the average cow, but Nellie is a trained glutton for Dr. T. H. Blosser and associates who are trying to find out how much silage a dairy cow can eat without injury to health or milk production. The problem is how soon will Nellie get sick, if at all. So wait till the silo's empty, Nellie!

European co-ops

Foreign Agriculture Circular FAR 2–51, "Opportunities for Marketing U. S. Commodities Through the Cooperative of Eight European Countries," written by John H. Heckman, of Farm Credit Administration, brings up to date Foreign Agriculture Report No. 51, "Buying and Selling by Cooperatives in Europe," by Mr. Heckman and Glenn E. Riddell, published last year. Both publications may be obtained from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

Bottomland timber

With more than 30 million acres of bottomland hardwood forests, the South leads all other regions of the country in hardwood production. Now the Forest Service's Southern Forest Experiment Station has issued a guide to the management of these bottomland forest types, thus filling a major gap in American forest management literature. "Management of Bottomland Hardwoods," by John A. Putnam, is the Station's Occasional Paper 116. If you wish to get a copy, write the Southern Forest Experiment Station, 1008 Federal Office Building, New Orleans 12, La.

New division in FAR

A Division of Agricultural Machinery and Supplies has been reestablished in USDA's Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations to function within its International Commodities Branch. It will prepare and analyze information about defense problems, while its statistical and economic work will relate to the production and consumption of, and international trade in farm machinery, fertilizers, and pesticides. Horace G. Bolster, for 12 years an Extension Service economist in Montana, and later American Agricultural attaché in Iran and the Netherlands, has been named acting head of the new division.

Certificate of Cooperation

Donald G. Coleman, who heads the Division of Information and Education at Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wis., sends us this item: "A Certificate of Cooperation has been awarded to the Forest Products Laboratory by the Economic Cooperation Administration. The award, which was presented by George Forster, mayor-elect of the city of Madison, reads 'for furnishing technical assistance to the Peoples of the Marshall Plan Countries to aid them in maintaining individual liberty, free institutions, and peace.'" During 1950 the Laboratory received 272 technical visitors from 47 foreign countries.

Party suggestion

One of our somewhat shy and faintly antisocial supervisors more or less deplores parties, although he is not a kill-joy. If his staff determines to have one, he looks on benignly. When his birthday came around this year, his ingenious and imaginative staff, knowing his interest in the Red Cross drive, decided to present him with cut paper flowers and the picture of a birthday cake, plus an envelope containing a generous contribution to the fund. Here's a good idea. There is always a drive on for some good cause. Why not curtail office parties and use the funds collected for some beneficial drive? Maybe more of our supervisors would like that.

More power

So greatly has consumer demand increased that REA says additional generating capacity equal to that of the Hoover and Grand Coulee Dams combined will probably be needed during the next 5 years. Already demand of the 3,420,000 consumers on REA-financed lines requires generator capacity equal to that of the entire hydroelectric installations of TVA, but requirements will probably be doubled by 1955, and this estimate may be conservative. This problem is the subject of a discussion in April-May "Rural Electrification News," a periodical published by Rural Electrification Administration.

Stone succeeds Andrews in FS

J. Herbert Stone, educated in forestry at Yale, who has been regional forester for Forest Service in the Southern Region, headquarters at Atlanta, has become regional forester for the Pacific Northwest Region, headquarters at Portland, Oreg. He fills the vacancy caused by the recent death of Horace J. Andrews in an automobile accident while attending a foresters' conference in Washington, D. C. Mr. Stone directed timber-management projects in the FS regional office at Milwaukee, 1936–45, and planned and directed a Lake States program designed to increase wartime log and lumber production, 1944–45. He entered FS in 1927 as a ranger, and has served successively in positions of increasing importance. He represented FS at the Third World Forestry Congress, Helsinki, Finland, in 1949.

Cattle in the world

How many cattle in the world? The Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations reports 806.3 million head. This preliminary estimate places the world cattle population at a record level, and about 2-percent higher than the revised estimates for 1950. Current numbers are 8 percent above the 1936–40 prewar average. A further moderate increase is anticipated during 1951, but tightening feed supplies in certain important cattle areas may curtail further herd expansion.

Missouri's new lab

The University of Missouri opened its new Agricultural Laboratory Building to the public April 12. Erected as the first section of a projected Agricultural Building, it cost approximately $825,000, and has a fine food-processing lay-out containing an electric smokehouse; an assembly line for canning fruits, vegetables, and meats; and facilities for sample grinding, chemical storage, spectroscopy and radioisotope research, plus an electron microscope.

Increasing fertility

In "GP," a monthly medical journal published by the American Academy of General Practice, for March 1951, we read: "In experiments with low-fertility bulls studied at the Pennsylvania State College, the workers have found that treatments with pencillin or streptomycin, or a combination of the two, significantly raised the fertilility of the semen. Experiments are now in progress with other antibiotics." Get further information from the College.

Improved quarantine treatment

A cheaper, speedier method of treating a number of perishable commodities, prior to certification for shipment from Hawaii to the U. S. mainland under the domestic fruit and vegetable quarantine, has been developed by research in Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. It involves a 2-hour fumigation at 70° F., using ethylene dibromide at a rate of one-half pound per thousand cubic feet of space. The treatment is authorized for avocado, bell pepper, bitter melon, Cavendish banana, cucumber, papaya, pineapple, string beans, and Zucchini squash. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1013.

Farrington confirmed

Robert L. Farrington was confirmed by the Senate on April 23 as Cooperative Bank Commissioner, Farm Credit Administration, heading the Central Bank for Cooperatives in Washington and its 12 district affiliates. Mr. Farrington, a career employee, has been Acting Commissioner and Deputy Governor of FCA for some time; he came to the Federal Farm Board in 1931 and has been with either FCA or USDA since 1933. A Texan by birth, he holds several degrees in business administration, economics, and law, and is the author of much important legislation and of numerous articles and reports dealing with agricultural credit and finance, particularly in the field of farmers' cooperatives.

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Employee News Bulletin

FOR JUNE 6, 1951

Joint stock land banks

ON APRIL 26 the last joint stock land bank, the Illinois Midwest Joint Stock Land Bank, Edwardsville, Ill., surrendered its charter and ceased to exist. Organized under provisions of the Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916, these privately capitalized institutions made long-term amortized first mortgage loans on farm real estate with funds obtained primarily from the sale of farm loan bonds to the public. At the beginning of 1933 they had 84,679 loans for 459 million dollars outstanding and were suffering severely from the effects of the depression. They then owned 6,406 farms acquired via foreclosure and large numbers of their outstanding loans were delinquent, while their stock was priced at approximately 45 percent of par. They were placed in the hands of the Land Bank Commissioner (J. R. Isleib is the present incumbent) for liquidation, and their position improved.

On May 12, 1933, there were 50 joint stock land banks, 3 of which were in receivership. By December 31, 1940, 34 of the banks were liquidating their assets and retiring their obligations as per the Emergency Farm Mortgage Act of May 12, 1933. Their liquidation marks completion of a chore carried out by the Federal Land Bank Division, Farm Credit Administration. The 1933 law gave to the Federal Land Banks the job of supplying mortgage credit to help debt-ridden farmers get on their feet financially. Prior to passage of this act, 88 joint stock land banks had been chartered by the Federal Farm Loan Board.

FHA farm-ownership loans

Most families who bought farms with Farmers Home Administration long-term loans are still paying back faster than they have to. For a detailed report on this phase of FHA's work *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1125.

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Personnel Shifts in FHA-PMA

RAUB SNYDER, a native of Missouri who attended Kansas University and Kansas State, and has served as Deputy Administrator of Farmers Home Administration since July 1949, has become Assistant Administrator for Production, Production and Marketing Administration, taking over the position formerly held by Deputy Administrator Harold K. Hill of PMA. Mr. Snyder has had some 16 years of Federal Government service beginning with the Kansas Rural Rehabilitation Corporation. He was later Kansas State director of Resettlement Administration, spent a decade in field and Washington administrative positions with predecessors of FHA, and served as deputy director of UNRRA in China, 1945–46. He is succeeded as Deputy Administrator of FHA by Assistant Administrator Ralph A. Picard, a newspaper man who joined the staff of FSA in the Indianapolis office, in 1941.

Richard B. Bridgforth, a Virginian who owns and operates several farms in that State and has served since 1939 in the farmer-committee system that administers the PMA farm program, has been appointed assistant to the Assistant Administrator for Production, PMA. Charley Mays of Tennessee, who has owned and operated a farm in Greenville, Tenn., since 1915, and has been active with the farmer-committee system since 1943, has been appointed Director of the Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch (the ACP) PMA. Marcus B. Braswell, a North Carolina farm owner and teacher who joined FHA in 1935, but came to Washington in 1944 as Director of the Production Loan Division, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Picard as Assistant Administrator of FHA. Mr. Braswell's former post was filled by Henry Smith, hitherto Chief of the Loan and Collection Section. Robert Ragains and Frank Pollard were promoted as a result of these changes.

Far-flung USDAers

DR. LAROY NOYES, a native of Arkansas who took his DVM from Kansas State, and has been with the Bureau of Animal Industry since 1919, has succeeded Gen. Harry H. Johnson as Co-Director of the Joint Mexican-U. S. Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease. He has been in charge of technical phases of the program since June 1, 1947. His work in BAI was concerned with meat inspection, bovine-tuberculosis eradication, the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease, and drought relief. Before his present assignment he was assistant veterinarian in charge of field activities for BAI in Fort Worth.

Dr. Charalambos S. Stephanides, a Turkish-born naturalized citizen of the United States, who took his doctor's degree in animal husbandry at Cornell, and has served on the staff of the Office of Foreign Agriculture Relations since 1947, has gone to Iran to represent USDA in Point IV work concerned with that nation's rural development program. Dr. Stephanides is a veteran livestock specialist and agricultural economist, with a record of previous service in Greece, Italy, and Egypt. He has served with UNRRA, FAO, and as local agricultural agent in Greece helping resettled refugees in Macedonia and Thrace develop a livestock-improvement program. His present assignment is made cooperatively with the Technical Cooperation Administration, Department of State.

Oliver A. Bauman, Jr., a native of Missouri and a graduate of the University of Kansas, has gone to India as a USDA representative to advise that nation's Ministry of Agriculture on the production of animal vaccines and sera. This also is a Point IV assignment via the Technical Cooperation Administration. Upon graduation Mr. Bauman became associated with the Jensen-Salsbery Laboratories, Kansas City, Mo., and for the past 8 years has been manager of its vaccine production. In India he will join the following from USDA already there on Point IV assignments: Horace C. Holmes, agricultural adviser; Earle K. Rambo, agricultural engineer; and Ford M. Milam, agronomist.

"Rural Cuba"

This is the name of a new book from University of Minnesota Press, priced at $3.50. The author, Lowry Nelson, is professor of sociology at the university and spent a year in Cuba on appointment as rural sociologist by the Department of State. The study reported was made under technical guidance of our Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

New Info head

KEITH HIMEBAUGH, who for the past 7 years has been Director of Information, has returned after a period of illness to take a foreign assignment on the Point IV Program with the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. He has been succeeded as Director of Information by Associate Director R. L. Webster, who entered Press Service in 1931, transferred to AAA, then was brought into the Office of the Secretary and, in 1944, joined the staff of the Office of Information. He is a native of Webster, N. Dak., a graduate of the University of North Dakota and of Columbia University School of Journalism, and worked on North Dakota newspapers before entering the Department.

Mr. Himebaugh is a native of Holland, Mich., and, after graduation from Michigan State in 1928, became a member of Michigan State's extension staff until 1934, when he joined AAA. He will now assist Point IV countries in developing agricultural extension information services, responding to increasing requests from these countries for such technical assistance. In 1949-50, he assisted ECA in a similar capacity with Marshall Plan countries of Western Europe, and he also has first-hand knowledge of agricultural extension needs in some Latin American countries. His work will mainly concern 14 of these and several nations in the Far East. There is a recognized need in all Point IV countries for a more effective job of bringing agricultural information to the farmers. Said Secretary Brannan: "We will miss Keith Himebaugh in our domestic agricultural work, but we will gain in our total effort to build peace."

Cool white—warm white

REA HOME-LIGHTING specialists, whose job requires them to keep abreast of new developments and ideas in good illumination, report that the fluorescent light industry has come up with two new types of tubes. They are called "de luxe cool white" and "de luxe warm white" and they match standard tube lighting, but give a far better color appearance. They're a bit less efficient—that is, they give less light per kilowatt-hour—than standard tubes but they are still better and cheaper to operate than the standard incandescent bulbs.

Factories, offices, schools, and most stores call for a cool, neutral light of high efficiency, say the lighting specialists, but in home lighting, a warm atmosphere is preferred and true color is important. For instance, true color is especially needed in the laundry to highlight soil and stains and to prevent ironing scorches. Rural Electrification Administration specialists say that the new tubes may not be available everywhere yet, but they suggest to farmers that they are worth watching for.

New soybeans

DR. MARTIN G. WEISS, plant scientist in charge of USDA's soybean improvement, estimates that more than three-fourths of this year's acreage will be planted to 8 superior new varieties produced by Federal-State research during the past decade: Lincoln, Hawkeye, Adams, Monroe, Wabash, Roanoke, Ogden, and Blackhawk. They average at least 3 bushels more per acre than the varieties they replace, the beans have a higher oil content, and the plants stand erect in the field. Only one area, from northern Tennessee across southern Missouri and northern Arkansas, lacks an improved variety available this year. Although diseases have not caused widespread losses to this crop so far, the new varieties carry resistance to some of them, such as Wabash to frogeye leafspot and Ogden to bacterial pustule and wildfire.

Science has also changed soybean cultivation. In the South delay of planting until May permits weeds to germinate and be killed off before the soybeans go in the ground. The seeds then germinate quickly and the young plants grow rapidly and soon shade the ground for additional weed control. Because of the soybean's response to length of day, this later planting produces taller, more vigorous plants of uniform height and maturity. In the Cereal Belt growers are advised to plant soybeans in narrower rows than those used for corn. This results in better yields. In Ohio and Indiana, scientists have found that what they formerly regarded as disease symptoms in soybeans actually denote deficiencies which can be corrected by applications of manganese in the field. In North Carolina applications of as much as 400 pounds of 0–10–20 fertilizer to the acre—lime, phosphate, and potash—give profitable yield increases.

There is nothing new now in chemical weed control for the crop, but several weed killers show promise as preemergence treatments. The soybean crop has long been well mechanized. A minor contribution by recent research is an improved straw-spreader which can be attached to the combine. It spreads the straw evenly over the field making the soil easier to work.

USDA WHEN YOU RETIRE

If you still want to get *USDA* regularly after you retire, just write the editor, name and address always at the end of the last column, back page, and ask for it. It can be sent you. If you are a retiree who already gets *USDA*, don't bother: your subscription is paid up for life.

USDA DOCUMENTS

All *USDA* documents are in stock as follows: No. 1, Origin, Structure, and Functions of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, April 1, 1951; No. 2, Abridged List of Federal Laws Applicable to Agriculture, October 15, 1950; No. 3, Biographies of Persons in Charge of Federal Agriculture Work, 1836 to Date, June 2, 1948; No. 4, Condensed History of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, May 15, 1950; No. 5, Our Department Scientists—outstanding achievements of some of our earlier famous workers in natural science; No. 6, Important Recent Achievements of Department of Agriculture Scientists, April 1, 1951. Order by number. Send written orders to the editor of *USDA* or phone Ext. 4649.

Brief but important

Straub is food consultant

Walter F. Straub, since 1919, head of W. F. Straub Co., manufacturers of food products and chemical specialties in Chicago, has been appointed food consultant on the staff of the Secretary. He served with USDA as director of the emergency food program in 1946, and earlier, with OPA as director of civilian food distribution.

Librarian Shaw at Columbia

Columbia University will hold a workshop, July 16 through August 3, on Management Research in Libraries, under the direction of Dr. Ralph R. Shaw, Librarian of USDA, who has made notable contributions in this field. For further information get in touch with the School of Library Service, Columbia University, New York City 27.

Poultry inspection and grading

Effective July 1, 1951, all poultry inspection and grading work, now under the administrative direction of the Dairy Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, will be transferred to the PMA Poultry Branch. This action continues a separation of functions begun in August 1945, when the Dairy and Poultry Branch was separated in twain, though grading and inspection services for both products remained with the Dairy Branch.

Eisele departs to better things

Dr. Harold F. Eisele, who headed the personnel and technical training work in Office of Personnel until 1946, when he left to become assistant director of the USDA Graduate School, has left there to be Chief of the Plans and Report Branch, Bureau of States Services, Public Health Service. A graduate of Grand Island College, with his M.S. and Ph. D. from Iowa State, Dr. Eisele entered Government service in 1935, and first served as regional training officer with Soil Conservation Service in Milwaukee. When this editor took over, he was serving for Pers on the old and long-forgotten *USDA* Editorial Advisory Board.

Mobilization and the farmer

We have copies of an informative speech by Under Secretary McCormick which provides an excellent summary on How Mobilization Affects the Farmer. To get copies *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1139.

USDA motion pictures

New Agriculture Handbook No. 14 is Motion Pictures of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1951. For complete information on the work of our Motion Picture Service get this as you do other printed publications; the editor of *USDA* has no supply.

Waters succeeds Baker

Herbert J. Waters, a well-known northern California newspaperman who entered the Office of Information about a year ago, has succeeded John Baker as assistant to Under Secretary McCormick. Mr. Baker became legislative secretary to the Farmers Union.

Artificial insemination

The Institute for Artificial Insemination, Via Flli, Bronzetti 17, Milan, Italy, is soon to publish an international bibliography on artificial insemination. It invites all who can to assist in the compilation by supplying copies of books or papers they have written on the subject or, alternatively, full details regarding such publications.

Meat-grading service extended

Production and Marketing Administration has announced extension of the meat-grading service in line with requirements of Office of Price Stabilization Distribution Regulation No. 2, which required the Federal grading of meat after May 7 and assigned the function to the USDA. For details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1110.

Anderson on Point IV

Extension Editor Cal Anderson of Washington State has gone to Europe on a 6-month assignment with Economic Cooperation Administration, headquarters in Paris. He will work with Wallace Kadderly, who formerly headed our Radio Service, helping Marshall Plan countries develop agricultural information programs. C. A. (Al) Bond, also formerly of USDA Radio Service, will be acting extension editor during Cal's absence.

Quality loss in marketing potatoes

A new report is available based on Research and Marketing Act studies made jointly by the Idaho and Oregon Agricultural Experiment Stations and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Entitled "Significance of Quality Loss in Marketing Early Idaho-Oregon Potatoes," it covers shipping losses to potatoes from these two States when sent in carload lots to Chicago and Des Moines, by rail. For more details get the publication as you do other printed bulletins, or *write* the editor of *USDA* who can supply a *digest* of the findings if you ask for No. 1128.

Ken Warner moves

Kenneth F. Warner, extension meat specialist in Extension Service, has transferred to Extension Education and Training Division, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, where he will plan and handle study and travel schedules in this country of foreign technicians concerned with livestock and poultry. He brings to this new assignment a wealth of knowledge and experience and a real gift for teaching. The editor remembers him from the old, old days, when he was with Bureau of Animal Industry in Beltsville. He sold us some of the finest meat and pork sausage we ever ate. We have had nothing like it for years and years.

McGinty air-borne

Tom McGinty, able right hand of Frank Teuton in Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, has gone on leave to reenter the Air Force. He has his former rank of major.

Toxic Chemicals in Agriculture

This is the title of a long, well-documented editorial in the British Medical Journal for March 24, that some of you might like to get from the Library and read. It is concerned in the main with the safety of farm workers who use toxic substances in agriculture.

Foreign feast

The May issue of "Foreign Agriculture," available from Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations (room 5922-S, Ext. 2445, or write in) contains a feast of good articles. Among them are pieces on the cultural significance of food, Soviet collective farm mergers, tractor training in India, the British peanut program in East Africa, and the part Indonesia plays in world economy.

Changing rice situation

Isom Deshotels, a native of Louisiana and a graduate of Southwestern Louisiana Institute at Lafayette, has undertaken a survey of the rice situation in southeast Asia in the light of changing conditions there. He is a marketing specialist of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations and the survey is being made in response to recommendations of the Research and Marketing Act Rice Advisory Committee.

Drough-resistant sprays

Already people are going around saying they can now spray the grass and keep the lawn 2 inches high all summer. We are not that far along. But routine tests by USDA scientists at Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., indicated that certain chemicals made beans and cauliflower stay fresh and in tiptop shape, if used on them before harvest. Did it therefore help plants retain moisture? If so, would such a spray help plants during dry spells? There is plenty to be found out yet; so hold everything for later developments, if and when.

The sweetpotato

This very good food was recognized as such by Virginia settlers, perhaps as early as 1610, but Columbus had found the crop growing in Cuba under Indian cultivation much before that. Later Spanish expeditions to Mexico and South America also found sweetpotatoes growing. Sweets first migrated to Spain, then spread afar, reaching England before the miscalled "Irish" potato arrived. Today the U. S. produces about 61 million bushels of sweetpotatoes annually and more than 10 million of these come from Louisiana alone. They are a rich source of vitamin A and contain appreciable quantities of vitamin C., some of the B vitamins, some minerals, and heaps of energy.

Concentrated milk

The USDA has recommended that concentrated milk for fluid consumption be put in Class I. Hitherto, while it had no specific classification, it was a new product containing more than 8 percent of butterfat, hence it slipped into Class II. Class I milk is mainly that sold in fluid (bottled) form or in fluid milk drinks; Class II is largely fluid cream, ice cream, and products not otherwise classified; Class III is milk used in manufactured dairy products. The Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 authorizes the Secretary to establish appropriate minimum prices to be paid by milk dealers to dairy farmers for milk, though Federal orders do not control retail prices of milk to consumers.

Maurice O. Eldridge

M. O. Eldridge, a pioneer for better public roads, died April 28. Born in Tennessee, he came to Washington in 1894 to work for the newly established Office of Road Inquiry in USDA at $60 a month. The unit became the Office of Public Roads in 1905 and the Bureau of Public Roads in 1918, the work being transferred to Federal Works Agency in 1939. Mr. Eldridge started a vigorous campaign for road improvement and was instrumental in laying the groundwork for the Federal grants-in-aid for highway construction. He left Government in 1919 to work with the American Automobile Association where he continued until appointed traffic director of Washington, D. C., in 1925; he served with the Washington traffic department until his retirement at the end of 1946.

Annual "filthy-weed" report

At the beginning of the century our domestic output of cigarettes was about 3 billion. Last year 392 billion were produced and domestic consumption accounted for 9 out of every 10 of them, or 361 billion, a new record, according to USDA agricultural economist Kathryn Parr. Cigarette manufacture now absorbs more than 3 out of every 4 pounds of leaf tobacco grown in the U. S., plus some foreign imports used for blending. These imports now amount to only about 5 or 6 percent, whereas before World War II they ran 10 percent of the native leaf used. Taxation accounts for about half the retail price of popular-brand cigarettes. The Federal tax is 7 and the average State tax about 2.3 cents a pack, while a few cities impose an additional tax.

New publications

Circular No. 859 is Evaluating School Lunches and Nutritional Status of Children, a joint publication prepared by workers in the U.S. Public Health Service and the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics; it is largely tabular but well worth while. * * * Home and Garden Bulletin No. 4, prepared by Martha Hensley and Bess V. Morrison of HNHE, is Window Curtains . . . Planning and Selection; it discusses all aspects of the subject and breaks out into attractive colored illustrations. It costs 20 cents (no stamps) from Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C. * * * Agricultural Monograph No. 9, from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, is Meat and Meat Animals in World War II, by Grover J. Sims of Production and Marketing Administration. Get as you do other printed publications; the editor of *USDA* has no stock.

Agricultural Market Prices

The second edition of this fine work by Warren C. Waite, late professor of agricultural economics, University of Minnesota, and our own Harry C. Trelogan, assistant for marketing in the Office of the Administrator, Agricultural Research Administration, is now available from John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 440 Fourth Avenue, New York City 16, at $5.25 a copy. The USDA Library has copies. Based on the premise that variation is a fundamental feature of prices, the book holds interest for a wide audience. It discusses how, when, and under what circumstances prices vary, and contains a wealth of illustrations and materials not elsewhere available. Dr. Trelogan took his B.S. at West Virginia University and his advanced degrees at University of Minnesota; he joined Farm Credit Administration in 1938, and was later in Production and Marketing Administration, as well as Assistant Administrator of the Research and Marketing Act. Professor Waite unfortunately died suddenly November 11, 1950, soon after having read the book in galley proof.

Critical farm occupations

The Department of Labor has added farm operators and assistants to the list of critical occupations. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1076.

Rice standards

Revised standards for rough, brown, and milled rice have been announced by Production and Marketing Administration and go into effect July 1. To get details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1098.

Commissioner Chapman

William L. Chapman, a Wyoming county agent and a graduate of University of Wyoming College of Agriculture who began his extension career in 1935, has become Wyoming State Commissioner of Agriculture.

"Social Patterns of Farming"

This is a paper-bound study from Columbia University Seminar on Rural Life, Columbia University, New York City 27, prepared by Sloan R. Wayland. It points out the need for and proposes a new classification of farms to be used in the tabulation of census reports and in State and local studies.

Lennartson reassigned

Roy W. Lennartson, who has been serving as deputy assistant administrator for Marketing in Production and Marketing Administration, has been appointed Assistant Administrator for Marketing, PMA, succeeding John I. Thompson, when his resignation became effective April 27. Also see *USDA* April 11, end of page 3, and May 9, last item.

Dr. Eckert named dean

Dr. Phil S. Eckert, an agricultural economist and a graduate of Ohio State, who has been with ECA in Paris and in Washington since 1949, has succeeded Dr. Paul S. Burgess as dean of agriculture and director of the agricultural experiment station, University of Arizona. Dr. Burgess was relieved of his duties at his own request to return to the experiment station as a soil chemist.

"Bill" Rohrman retired

William H. Rohrman, administrative officer in charge of the budgetary and fiscal management section of Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, has retired after 45 years of Government service, the last 36 of which have been with FAR, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and the old Office of Markets. "Bill" Rohrman began his Government work with USDA's Division of Information, as it was then known, in 1906. After employment by the U. S. Patent Office from 1907 to 1915, he returned to USDA and has been with it ever since. He will continue to make his home in Washington, D. C.

Food for fighters

Table of Food Composition for the Armed Forces is a wholly up-to-date publication prepared by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics at the request of the Quartermaster General. The huge table gives the most exact available information on the quantities of vitamins and other nutrients in various ration items, thus providing a handy reference aid to diet planners and others responsible for keeping our Armed Forces well fed. Foods are tabulated in the 16 groups regularly used by the Armed Forces in planning meals. Copies of this publication are available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., at 30 cents (no stamps, please) each.

Cooper to Welch

Dean and Director Thomas P. Cooper of Kentucky relinquishes his administrative duties July 1, to be succeeded by Dr. Frank J. Welch, Director of the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station.

FCIC

Secretary's Memorandum No. 1290, May 1, announced the appointment of Frederic B. Northrup as Acting Manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, as recommended by the Corporation's Board of Directors.

Mechanical dispensers sell

Carrying on a Research and Marketing Act study, the Production and Marketing Administration compared sales in six Washington, D. C., and six Richmond, Va., stores, and found that sales of reconstituted frozen concentrated orange juice from mechanical dispensers averaged 18 percent greater than from customary jugs or pitchers. For details get "Merchandising Reconstituted Frozen Concentrated Orange Juice Through the Use of Mechanical Dispensers" from Office of Information Services, PMA, Ext. 5223.

Chemists produce a new dessert

Chemists at the Western Regional Research Laboratory have produced a dry mix for a chocolate-flavored milk dessert that has several advantages over present types. Only the addition of cold water—no heating or cooking—is required to make. The mixing can be finished in 2 minutes and 5 minutes later the dessert jells and is ready to serve, because it contains low-methoxyl pectin, made from fruit pectin, which requires neither heat nor acid to "set." The dry mix is not yet on the market.

Changes in PISAE

As of May 1, the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering—headquarters at Beltsville, Md., but carrying on research at about 200 locations throughout the U. S.—was reorganized to gear its research program better to the needs of defense mobilization. The changes provide three assistant chiefs and four directors of the research program. The former are Dr. F. P. Cullinan for over-all program operations, Dr. A. H. Moseman for program planning, and Edmund Stephens for administrative and business operations. The directors are Arthur W. Turner for agricultural engineering, Dr. Wm. M. Myers for field crops, Dr. John R. Magness for horticultural crops, and Dr. F. W. Parker for soils.

Progress with guayule

Discussing agricultural contributions to defense, Dr. Byron T. Shaw, Deputy Administrator of Agricultural Research Administration, cites advances in guayule rubber production as a field of progress since World War II: "We have learned how to produce plants and grow the crop more economically. Through plant breeding, we have learned that the rubber content of the guayule shrub can be increased greatly. We already have strains that produce as much as 50 percent more rubber per acre. We have also learned how to do a better job of extracting the rubber and removing resins. Deresinated rubber compares favorably with imported rubber for manufacture of tire carcasses. We have improved yield and quality by processing the green shrub instead of letting it dry out after harvest. A continuous extraction process is working well on a small scale. Improved guayule rubber is now undergoing road tests."

The family farm

Mobilization Goals and the Family Farmer, a speech delivered before the first National Council on Agricultural Life and Labor by Under Secretary McCormick, offers an excellent review of what the family farm has done in the past and its role during mobilization. For copies *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1032.

Minimizing drought hazards

New USDA Circular No. 865, Managing Northern Great Plains Ranges to Minimize Effects of Drought, by Leon C. Hurtt of Forest Service, tells how livestock operators can forestall the worst effects by conservative stocking, sound range-management practices, and other special adjustments. For details get the circular as you usually get printed publications; the editor of *USDA* has no stock.

Hawaii Station aged 50

On April 5, 1901, at 11 a. m., Jared G. Smith, the first Director of the Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station, presented his credentials from Secretary of Agriculture Wilson to Sanford B. Dole, Governor of the Territory of Hawaii. This may be considered as the beginning of the Hawaii Station. Fifty years later, on the same date in 1951, Jared G. Smith, still in the Territory doing newspaper work, was honored at a luncheon celebrating the occasion. The Hawaii Station is issuing a fiftieth anniversary report.

Nature surpassed

Man once more surpassed nature when Prof. Robert B. Woodward of Harvard reported in London recently the first complete synthesis of a steroid in chemical history. Moreover, this synthetic steroid was not far removed in structure from cortisone, and could become a starting point for synthesis of this important compound. It still requires the bile acid of 4,000 cattle to make a gram of cortisone by a prolonged and tedious process. A race now seems to be on between chemists who are trying to synthesize cortisone via making the steroids and those who are seeking to extract related compounds from plants and thus foster mass production of the drug.

Busier bees

The Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine has been carrying on an experiment with commercial cantaloups in the Salt River Valley of Arizona. The growers kept a fairly adequate number of honeybees and the vines made good commercial crops. But when a heavier bee population was used there was an increase of nearly 30 percent in marketable melons, about 60 crates to the acre at around $3 a crate. Native bees, thrips, moths, and beetles were valueless as pollinators, but plenty of honeybees aided the grower a great deal, even though cantaloup flowers are so unattractive to the bees that it often pays to mow flowering weeds to keep the insects busy on the cantaloups.

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USDA
Employee News Bulletin
FOR JUNE 20, 1951

Agricultural engineering

THE FOLLOWING are examples of recent benefits from agricultural engineering research, as cited by J. D. Long of Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering:

The role the engineers played as consultants for the Commodity Credit Corporation in the purchase of more than a hundred million dollars worth of grain-storage buildings, bins, and equipment since 1948; the plans and specifications they developed, at a cost of 4 percent of the amount of the loan program, for low-cost farm housing; the development of a seed-cotton drier now used in more than 5,000 gins, which has added 20 million dollars annually to the income of cotton growers; the development of a lint-flue cleaner now used in some 1,500 gins, which has added some 5 million dollars annually to growers' income; tests of tractor tires at the U. S. Tillage Laboratory, Auburn, Ala., suggesting design improvements that may bring a saving of 10 percent annually in fuel costs for tractor operations; improved machinery for seeding sugar beets which has reduced seeding rates from 20 to less than 4 pounds per acre and labor by one-third, accounting for $250,000 annual savings in seed and 7 million dollars in labor; improvements in curing methods and equipment for bright leaf tobacco, reducing costs by 50 percent, a potential saving of 10 million dollars annually.

Then there are many new electrical farm machines developed since World War II and now available to replace hand labor, such as the crop drier, gutter cleaner, automatic poultry feeder, portable elevator, and silo unloader. In the research "mill" are an electric haymow conveyor designed to distribute partly cured, chopped hay uniformly over the ducts or slatted floors of forced-air curing systems; an electric metering device to regulate the flow of three different materials into a feed grinder; an electric system of drying grain by heat; and electric ventilating equipment to control temperature and humidity in animal shelters and poultry houses.

Secretary's annual report

We have a seven-page digest of the Secretary's annual report to President Truman. To get copies *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1177.

949166

TEN O'CLOCK SCHOLARS!

Tardiness, refreshment stands, running personal errands during working hours, and the like have been topics of discussion among USDA's top officials. It appears that a few USDA employees have been abusing privileges and some have been ignoring the regulations about working hours. Department officials are convinced that abuses of the privileges and violation of the regulations are practiced by only a small number. Nevertheless, the appearance given by the actions of these few damages the reputation of the Department and its many hard-working people.

Practices giving rise to the discussions are: Tardiness and leaving work early; running personal errands and engaging in other activities during working hours without charge to leave; leaving work for breakfast or other refreshment before lunch time; lingering at refreshment stands after refreshments are consumed, or lining up before service counters are open. The Secretary wants the help of everyone in stopping these abuses.

FARM SAFETY

Secretary's Memorandum No. 1292, May 2, announced that National Farm Safety Week is to be July 22–28, 1951. Each year farm people suffer about 18,000 deaths and 1.5 million disabling injuries caused by accidents. During the past decade manpower on farms has decreased by over a million, but tractors, trucks, electric power, and mechanization generally have increased enormously. While these changes have enabled us to increase agricultural production substantially, they have also increased the hazards of farm operation. All USDA agencies are requested to cooperate in promoting National Farm Safety Week and in emphasizing accident prevention throughout the year. Farm accidents can be reduced if farm people recognize the hazards and either eliminate or get into the habit of avoiding them.

Chairman Ramspeck speaks

CHAIRMAN RAMSPECK of the U. S. Civil Service Commission addressed a luncheon group at USDA recently. He speaks forcefully and is fully determined that Government employees' jobs shall be better understood and the employees be better esteemed by the public for their very real accomplishments. He remarked that so many who attack Federal Government employees apparently believe all 2 million of them to be cooped up here in Washington, D. C., wasting time and Government funds. Instead, he said, they are scattered all over the Nation, they should be known to people in every community, and they work faithfully at worthwhile tasks quite as important as those performed by non-Government employees. He has several schemes to bring them increased respect by educating the public about them and their duties. These will soon be in operation.

Mr. Ramspeck decried supervisors who insist upon having stenographers and then do no dictation. They should either learn to dictate well or else simply get typists if they write everything out to be copied. The Chairman also recommended the dictaphone. He insisted that sound management and efficient supervision could save time and effort all along the line, enabling workers to perform better and increase production without undue pressure or fatigue. He very emphatically insisted that it is possible for the Government to fire incompetent and inefficient employees. These are relatively few in number, but when the inefficiency and incompetence are proved, they should be fired and no fooling. Well-recognized and legal procedures exist to accomplish this. Mr. Ramspeck is an intelligent, and will be a very helpful friend of the employees, but he recognizes their shortcomings just as keenly as he does the injustice of much ill-informed criticism they constantly undergo.

Grass and legume committees

Secretary's Memorandum No. 1294, May 11, announced the membership of the Departmental Grass and Legume Seed Committee under the chairmanship of D. F. Beard of the Agricultural Research Administration, and outlined its functions. Memorandum No. 1295 of the same date announced the membership of the Departmental Grasslands Committee, under the chairmanship of W. A. Minor, Office of the Secretary, explained the grassland program now being carried on cooperatively by USDA and the land-grant colleges, and outlined the functions and responsibilities of the committee. You can get these memoranda from the Secretary's Records Section, Office of Plant and Operations, USDA, Ext. 3337.

In 1910

REVERT TO 1910. Scottish-born James ("Tama Jim") Wilson of Iowa had 3 more years of his long term to serve, the longest ever served by any Cabinet officer. Two years earlier serious study of farm economics had been undertaken in the Bureau of Plant Industry with W. A. Peak in charge. By this time the USDA was enforcing food, game, bird, livestock, quarantine, and meat-inspection laws, and many others besides. Its work was constantly expanding in response to new legislation. Meanwhile Secretary Wilson was deliberately building the Department into the largest and most outstanding scientific agricultural research institution in the entire world.

Already a Trade Wastes Laboratory had been established in the Bureau of Chemistry where research began on the industrial and other utilization of agricultural byproducts, surpluses, and culls. Farm production had attained the highest point yet. The first subhead in Secretary Wilson's annual report for 1910 read "Prosperity Maintained." To be sure, consumers were paying more for things than they used to, but the farmer must not be blamed for that. He was not getting an exorbitant price for anything he sold. Possibly the system of distribution was at fault, said the Secretary; because yields do rise formidably when scientific production methods based on research are widely used. Whereupon the Secretary rather abruptly changed the subject and began to argue for the establishment of a Bureau of Public Health in USDA!

At about this time the Department had 2,500 employees in Washington and about 10,000 in the field. Farm cooperative demonstration work was spreading rapidly; farm children were being organized into clubs. Studies in agricultural economics and in what became extension work progressed in the old Bureau of Plant Industry. W. J. Spillman spread farm demonstration work to the North and the West and, in 1911, helped to establish the first Farm Bureau. Bradford Knapp, son of Seaman A. Knapp, carried forward the cooperative demonstration work in the South. O. E. Baker joined Spillman's staff in 1912, and O. C. Stine, another student of H. C. Taylor, in 1916.

While Secretary Wilson held office, urban influence on rural life rapidly intensified. Means of transportation and communication improved enormously. The increasing manufacture of automobiles rendered old methods of road making antiquated, and road improvement by more modern techniques gave farmers new access to markets. Thereupon competition grew keener and farm credit became an acute problem. In 1910, about 33 percent of all persons gainfully employed were in agriculture; the estimated acreage equity of farmer operators in the land they tilled was 50 percent.

In those days Secretary Wilson wandered quite casually around the vicinity of the old Red Brick Building. He often lunched in the crude cafeteria of the times at a table along with whatever employees, high or low, happened to drop by. He frequently stopped employees on the grounds for a little chat. On one occasion he picked on the writer of these lines. For this reversion to 1910 is in part motivated by the fact that the present editor of *USDA* entered the Department of Agriculture that year as a laboratory helper, an unglorified dishwasher—though he was to become an assistant chemist soon after—and 41 years is a long time, in fact it's just about enough.

Federal Seed Act

THE FEDERAL SEED ACT makes it unlawful for anyone to sell, offer for sale, or ship in interstate commerce any imported seed stained under the act, when mixed with seed of the same kind produced in the U. S., or to ship falsely labeled seed in interstate commerce. It was announced May 22 that during this season eight shipments of alfalfa seed had been seized under the act and action taken under Federal court decrees because of false representation as to origin. In most instances the presence of weed and crop seeds not ordinarily found in alfalfa seed grown in the Northern States indicated that the shipments consisted wholly or in part of seed from the southwestern U. S., though not so represented.

In two cases seed represented to be of Canadian origin and found to be mixed with domestic seed was ordered exported with as nearly correct labeling as to origin as possible. In two cases seed falsely represented to be of Canadian origin was ordered correctly labeled and also to be stained 10-percent red to indicate it was unadapted to general agricultural use. Such staining would have been required had it been imported as of mixed Canadian and domestic origin. In other cases still seed falsely represented to be of domestic origin was ordered to be correctly labeled to comply with the Federal Seed Act. The Production and Marketing Administration enforces the Federal Seed Act, which became law August 9, 1939. This law also requires that imported seed meet certain quality standards and that seed in interstate commerce be completely and truthfully labeled, while it prohibits all false advertising of seed in interstate commerce.

Dr. McCall retires

DR. MAX A. McCALL, Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering since 1934, voluntarily retires June 30, after 36 years in the Federal service, during which he made substantial contributions to the advancement of American agriculture. He won a Distinguished Service Award in 1950 and, in 1944, was especially honored by the International Crop Improvement Association for his sound counsel and leadership in its field. In 1948, he was one of a two-man advisory mission sent to Italy which recommended an integrated development of agricultural and hydroelectric resources there and, in 1949, he served as one of three scientists on a highly successful agricultural mission to the British colonial territories in Africa.

A native of Kansas, Dr. McCall took his B. S. at Oregon State, his M. S. from Washington State, and his Ph. D. at University of Wisconsin. From 1915 until 1924, he was superintendent of the Lind Dry-Land Experiment Station in Washington State, which worked cooperatively with USDA. He became agronomist in the Division of Cereal Crops and Diseases, old Bureau of Plant Industry, in 1924 and, in 1929, was made Chief of that Division. During his career he did much to develop a sound basis for Federal-State cooperative experiment station research and he was chairman of the USDA committee that drafted the Federal Seed Act. He plans to continue his activities in the field of agriculture when released from the pressures of official responsibility.

Jump Award winner

Talcott W. Edminster, project supervisor for Virginia of Soil Conservation Service, stationed at Blacksburg, received the William A. Jump Memorial Award this year, given for outstanding and inspired leadership in public administration. The Award was presented at the annual Honor Awards Ceremony held May 15. As noted earlier in *USDA*, Mr. Edminster also received a Superior Service Award at the same time. He is a native of Massachusetts, a graduate of Massachusetts Agricultural College, with an M. S. from University of Georgia, who joined the staff of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station in 1943. The following year, while still less than 24, he became acting project supervisor for SCS in Virginia.

CURRENT FACTS ON MEAT

"Some Facts Relating to the Current Meat Situation" is a statement by Secretary Brannan issued May 17. It contains much material in tables and text with which many of you should familiarize yourselves. To get copies *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1209.

Infinitesimal

INFINITESIMAL is the word for antibiotics. The quantity of them required to do the job is tiny indeed. For instance, the addition of aureomycin to supplement poultry feeds for chicks and broilers is now becoming common practice. A 19-percent-protein feed will usually give as good results if aureomycin is added as one containing 21 percent of protein without the antibiotic, and proteins are the high-cost element in feeds. But how much of the antibiotic is required? You add it at the rate of 20 grams to the ton of 19-percent-protein feed, and 20 grams is just about two-thirds of an ounce!

It is approximately 2 level tablespoonfuls of crystals, about the same quantity of sugar you throw on your cereal in the morning, if you are not fastidious and don't mind a little equatorial expansion. Yet, this small quantity added to 2,000 pounds of feed, say about 20 hundred-pound bags, turns the trick. Clearly this is a prescription you could not compound in a drug store. Further experiments are being carried on to determine the exact quantities it is best to mix in feeds using a scoopshovel on a granary floor.

Brief but important

Mr. Loveland

Former Under Secretary Albert J. Loveland is now State Director for Office of Price Stabilization in Iowa, with headquarters at Des Moines.

USDA's defense work

The statement made by the Secretary before the House Committee on Banking and Currency with regard to extending and amending the Defense Production Act offers a good review of USDA's defense work so far, and outlines amendments to the Act suggested by the Department. For copies *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1205.

Cutting cantaloup shipping costs

A report of a Research and Marketing Act study carried on under contract with the Western Growers Association, Los Angeles, and supervised by Production and Marketing Administration, deals with new loading methods that cut cantaloup shipping costs. Entitled "Reduction of Cantaloup Loss and Damage in Rail Transportation Through Use of the Upright Loading Method," it is available from the PMA Office of Information Services, USDA.

Fancy this

Each year it takes 23 million board feet of lumber to manufacture the 9 million gross of wooden clothespins we seem to require, plus 2,900 tons of steel for manufacturing 5.7 million gross of wire pins. Who has the lumber figures on toothpicks?

Valentino, agriculturist

When Rudolph Valentino came to this country as an immigrant he described himself as an agriculturist for the very good reason that at the ripe old age of 17 he took his degree as doctor of agriculture at the Royal College of Agriculture, Geno , Italy. Next question?

Special Awards Issue

"Notes and Quotes," issued by the Farmers Home Administration for administrative use, got out a Special Awards Issue for May in which it gave full details regarding its people who won Distinguished and Superior Service Awards May 15, as well as information regarding other awards received recently by FHA personnel.

PMA up in the air

Production and Marketing Administration workers have photographed from airplanes about 60 percent of the Nation's land area or about 90 percent of all its farm land. Negatives of more than 3 million square miles now in the PMA aerial photograph laboratory are used to provide pictures for PMA and many other Government agencies, Federal, State, and local. The cost of this work has been shared to some extent by a few States and even some counties.

Grain sorghum

On May 22 the Secretary issued a statement emphasizing the importance of planting grain sorghums in drought-affected areas of the southern Great Plains to prevent soil erosion and contribute to the Nation's supply of feed grains. This was especially desirable where winter wheat acreage had been abandoned. Further to stimulate grain-sorghum production the USDA increased the price support level for this crop from 65 to 75 percent of parity.

Farm real estate mortgage debt

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics announced that the farm real estate mortgage debt rose 8 percent during 1950 as compared with 6 during 1949, 5 in 1948, and 2 percent in 1947 and 1946. Farmers' nonreal-estate debt, including nonrecourse crop loans of Commodity Credit Corporation, increased about 15 percent during last year. For further details, including a State-by-State break-down of farm mortgage loans outstanding 1950–51, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1252.

New deal in agriculture

"Agricultural Discontent in the Middle West, 1900–39," by Theodore Saloutos, associate professor of history at University of California, and John D. Hicks, also on the staff of California but just now visiting professor of American history at Cambridge University, is a large $6.75 job from the University of Wisconsin Press. In addition to tracing the development of agrarian discontent the book also gives a good account of the McNary-Haugen movement, and of the evolution, unfolding, and operation of the New Deal farm program. Said to be the first broad historical treatment of agrarian unrest in twentieth-century USA, it is very well worth reading and consulting.

Lownsbery to Connecticut

Dr. Benjamin F. Lownsbery has joined the plant pathology department at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station to work on plant diseases caused by nematodes. Earlier he was on the staff of Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. He is a graduate of the University of Delaware where he majored in biology; he took his Ph. D. at Cornell where he later taught for a while.

"Defense Production Record"

This is the name of a new weekly issued by the Office of Public Information for the National Production Authority, Department of Commerce, and available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., at $2.50 a year. It digests material available from NPA and other Federal agencies concerned with defense, including USDA, week by week. It is mailed out Fridays and covers events through the previous day. (A few copies are distributed to Department offices where needed.)

Consolidation in EPQ

The Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine has consolidated its work on the adaptation and utilization of aircraft and other special equipment used in pest control, combining operations formerly carried on by its different field stations, under long-time career employee Kenneth Messenger, in a newly established Aircraft and Special Equipment Center, Oklahoma City, Okla. For more details on the Center's responsibilities and cooperative undertakings *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1206.

Know your agency!

The Production and Marketing Administration, through its Office of Personnel Management, has recently made available to PMA employees an opportunity for them to audit their knowledge of their organization. "What's Your PMA I. Q.?" is an attractive processed leaflet containing 25 questions about programs, operations, and activities of the organization. Answers to the questions are "sealed" in the back of the leaflet. Additional issues will be developed quarterly. Five thousand copies of the first issue are being distributed.

Retirement

The Employee Bulletin of the U. S. Civil Service Commission recently mentioned favorably the following books on retirement: "How to Retire—and Enjoy It," by Ray Giles; "Getting the Most Out of Retirement," by Walter L. Jones; "How To Retire to Florida," by George and Jane Dusenbury; "How To Retire to California," by Aubrey Drury; "Where to Retire on a Small Income" (author not given); and "Retire and Be Happy," by Irving Salomon. You might like to borrow some of these books from libraries or even to buy them at book stores.

Editors meet with USDA

The Extension Editor Advisory Committee met at USDA May 7–11 at about the same time the Experiment Station Editors' Conference was held. Those attending the former were Marjorie B. Arbour, Louisiana, chairman; Calvert Anderson, Washington, secretary; Francis C. Byrnes of Ohio; C. R. Elder of Iowa; Edd Lemons of Oklahoma; Hadley Read of Illinois; Samuel H. Reck, Jr., of New Jersey; John M. Ryan of South Dakota; and William B. Ward of New York. Experiment station editors in attendance were George F. Church, Oklahoma, chairman; William F. Calkins of California; Frank J. Shideler of Colorado; O. B. Copeland of Georgia; J. Allen Smith of Kentucky; Lawrence George of Louisiana; L. G. True of Montana; Francis E. Robinson of New Hampshire; Enrique Molinary-Sales of Puerto Rico; A. J. Sims of Tennessee; John Spaven of Vermont; R. D. Michael of Virginia; and Gerald Jenny of Wyoming.

Information on chlordane

A new processed publication you can procure from the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine is "A Digest of Information on Chlordane," by R. C. Roark. It looks complete and has a bibliography of 515 numbers.

Water color display

Twenty-eight water colors from the talented brush of Byron C. Jorns, who handles illustrations for Extension Service in Madison, Wis., were on display for some time in the patio of the Administration Building, USDA.

Nutty news

"The Amazon Basin Brazil Nut Industry," by W. R. Schrieber, a processed publication from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, has been reissued slightly revised. Procure from FAR; ask for Foreign Agriculture Report No. 49, slightly revised.

In the National Forests

If interested in the status of timber cut and sold on the National Forests or in data regarding forest fires started during 1950 by campers and smokers, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1175 or No. 1183, respectively.

Curing cigar tobacco with gas

Curing studies using liquid petroleum gas in place of the conventional charcoal to cure cigar-wrapper or shade-grown tobacco show that this provides a better quality product with less work and at less cost. For details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1191.

CCC loan programs

The programs under which the Commodity Credit Corporation provides loans for new, mobile mechanical equipment to dry farm commodities and for purchase of new farm storage facilities for grains and certain other storable crops have been extended until June 1, 1952. For details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1192 or No. 1193, respectively.

Air raid protection

The USDA Air Raid Protection Organization has been established in response to Secretary's Memoranda Nos. 1277 and 1281, issued February 2 and 16, respectively. The Assistant Secretary is responsible for the development of appropriate plans and the general direction of USDA's civil defense program, and the Office of Plant and Operations for the designation of safe areas for employees and for building protection. A mimeographed booklet was issued May 1. The organization will function until need for it no longer exists. For further information contact the offices mentioned above.

A-FAR

Stanley Andrews, Director of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, had a quick trip to West Germany recently where he addressed a conference on the world food picture. At the request of Premier Chen Cheng and with the strong recommendation of General MacArthur, Wolf Ladejinsky has been spending some time in Formosa as consultant on its land-reform program. The following went to the Food and Agriculture Organization Council meeting in Rome during June: Under Secretary Clarence McCormick, Fred Rossiter and Tom Street of FAR, Administrator P. V. Cardon of Agricultural Research Administration, and Ralph Roberts, USDA's Director of Finance.

Overtime, night, holiday pay

For information about overtime, night, and holiday compensation under the act of August 28, 1950, procure from the Secretary's Records Section, Office of Plant and Operations, USDA, Secretary's Memorandum No. 1291, dated May 1.

Farm productive capacity

For information regarding the appointment and membership of a committee on the analysis of agricultural productive capacity, under the chairmanship of Sherman E. Johnson, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, procure from Secretary's Records Section, Office of Plant and Operations, Secretary's Memorandum No. 1293, dated May 8.

"Forage and Pasture Crops"

This book by W. A. Wheeler, USDA retiree, is included in the list of the 100 best technical books of the year prepared by R. R. Hawkins, chief of the science and technology division of the New York Public Library, and editor of the descriptive catalog of selected scientific, medical, and technical books prepared under direction of a National Research Council committee.

Col. Greeley writes a book

Col. William B. Greeley, an associate of Gifford Pinchot, who entered USDA's forestry work in the old Bureau of Forestry in 1904 and became Chief of Forest Service (the name was changed in 1905) in 1920, serving until 1928, has a new book out. Entitled "Forests and Men," it was published by Doubleday & Co., New York City, at $3. Included is a fascinating account of early days in the old Bureau of Forestry. Col. Greeley later became head of the West Coast Lumberman's Association. His military title derives from his command of an engineer regiment in World War I.

Is this Work?

During an average year an average county home demonstration agent will work with 17 adult home demonstration groups with 406 members and with 312 girls in 4–H Clubs; will make 267 visits to 158 different farms or homes; will confer with 521 office visitors and answer 641 telephone calls; will prepare 95 news stories, broadcast or prepare for broadcasting 12 radio programs, and distribute 2,876 bulletins; will conduct 21 volunteer leader-training meetings attended by 258 adults and 146 4–H Club leaders, and 147 method-demonstration meetings with a total attendance of 2,752 adults, older youth, and 4–H Club members; and will participate in 67 other extension meetings with a total attendance of 3,961 adults, older youth, and 4–H Club members. She influences 978 families in better home practices. What do you think?

Changes in Food and Drug

Paul B. Dunbar who, in 1944, succeeded Walter G. Campbell, retired, as Commissioner of Food and Drugs, retired May 31. After taking his Ph. D. in chemistry at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Dunbar entered the old Bureau of Chemistry 44 years ago, while Dr. Harvey W. Wiley was Chief, and the new Food and Drug Act of 1906 was just beginning to be enforced. He became Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, under Dr. C. A. Browne in 1925, and of the Food and Drug Administration when it was split off to become a separate unit in 1927. He is succeeded by Charles W. Crawford, who entered the service 34 years ago, after taking his B. S. and M. S. at Oklahoma A. & M. where he later taught chemistry, and who was the principal representative of the Food and Drug Administration in Congressional hearings which led to the passage of the present Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

Goodbye, old-timer

Joseph Haley, who entered USDA August 15, 1905, as a stenographer and typist in the Office of the Secretary, has retired after nearly 46 years of service. A native of Virginia and a graduate of Virginia Mechanics Institute and Virginia Business College, he retired as a records analyst in the Office of Plant and Operations. Although trained in stenography and typing, Mr. Haley left this work 2 years after he entered USDA and went on to excel in records work. For a period he was chief of the old Division of Operations and, for 4 years Chief Clerk of USDA. He returned to records work in 1947. He has been a highly proficient administrative worker and will now seek to qualify as a golfing expert.

Dr. Herrmann goes to Paris

Assistant Administrator Omer Herrmann of Agricultural Research Administration has been appointed by the Department of State to head agricultural work at the American Embassy in Paris, representing the broad interests of U. S. agriculture in France, with particular reference to the effect on American farmers of trends there. Dr. Herrmann is a native of Nebraska who took his degree in agriculture at the University of Nebraska, and his Ph. D. from the University of Wisconsin in agricultural economics and marketing. After teaching a while in Nebraska and at Oklahoma A. & M., he joined USDA in 1931 and served in various marketing research positions in Farm Credit Administration. After Army service in World War II he became Director, Fats and Oils Branch, Production and Marketing Administration and U. S. member on the Fats and Oils Committee of the International Emergency Food Council. He has been Assistant Administrator of ARA since 1947.

Wheat, fertilizer, manure

Wheat is growing on Broadbalk field, Rothamsted Experimental Station, in Hertfordshire, England, the one hundred and eighth crop since 1843, when Lawes and Gilbert began their experiments there. These classical experiments they carried on in partnership for 57 years and placed the foundations of our scientific knowledge of fertilizing crops. The unmanured, unfertilized plot on Broadbalk continues to give an average yield of about 12 bushels per acre, though wheat had been grown on it for over a century. The plot that is treated annually with 14 tons of barnyard manure yields about three times as much, but so does the plot given a fairly heavy dressing of complete fertilizer and no organic manure since 1839. Produce from the fertilized plots is in no way inferior to that from the manured plots, nor has the long-continued use of fertilizer injured the soil which still maintains its normal population of earthworms and microorganisms, and crops grown there are no more susceptible to disease than those on plots treated with organic manures. So states Sir William Ogg of Rothamsted in Scientific Monthly for May.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA
Employee News Bulletin

FOR JULY 4, 1951

Unified conservation program

DRAFTING a National Agricultural Resources Conservation Program is under way for furtherance of Memorandum 1278 on Coordination of the Department's Agricultural Resources Conservation Services. Representatives of Soil Conservation Service, Production and Marketing Administration, Forest Service, Extension Service, Agricultural Research Administration, Farmers Home Administration, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and the Secretary's Land and Water Resources Staff are working on the program under the chairmanship of Herbert J. Waters, Assistant to the Under Secretary. The general purpose is to establish a policy guide for coordinating all phases of related activities in the conservation field at national, State, and county levels—to bring about one USDA conservation program in which the various agencies will participate in designated fields of responsibility. Intended uses of the National Agricultural Resources Conservation Program include:

1. As an internal policy guide to the heads of the agencies authorized to engage in conservation activities. 2. As a national policy guide for conservation at the State level in joint formulation and determination of State soil conservation policies and programs. 3. As a national policy guide for the consideration at the county level in joint formulation and determination of county soil conservation policies and programs, within the Statewide programs. 4. As a national guide to measure performance and progress of conservation work, thereby providing the means for the Under Secretary to carry out his delegated authority and responsibility of maintaining a continuous survey of USDA agricultural resources activities. 5. As a public declaration of the unified aims and objectives of USDA in all phases of agricultural resources conservation.

Ford grant to IFYE

The National 4-H Club Foundation has been granted up to $70,500 by the Ford Foundation to supplement present funds of the International Farm Youth Exchange project for the current year.

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FHA makes winners

FAMILIES using Farmers Home Administration supervised credit in South Carolina during the 1950 farm year furnished 53 of the prize winners in various agricultural contests sponsored by organizations *other than* FHA. Negro borrowers accounted for 19 of the prizes. Approximately one-third of the total number were veterans. Borrowers received prizes for superior soil conservation work, improved pastures, and for raising 100 or more bushels of corn per acre.

Fourteen children of borrowers also received various awards for above-average performance in club work or Future Farmer contests. One of these was Marie Brunson at Sumpter. She won a trip to Washington, D. C., in 1949 as a member of a dairy products demonstration team, and won the State garden contest in 1950, involving a trip to Chicago. The latter was sponsored by the Junior Vegetable Growers Association. She won other prizes including $100 in the 1950 eastern sectional contest in New Orleans and a trophy for entering the greatest variety of articles in the county fair. In addition to borrowers, six members of county FHA committees were recognized for superior farm work, mostly in the 100-bushel corn classification. The Master Farmer award was won by a Spartanburg County FHA Committeeman, Ben Turpin.

Publications you might want

The 1949–50 Annual Report of the Statistical Laboratory, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, covering research, consultation, teaching, and service activities, has been issued and is available from the Laboratory. It contains a history of the Statistical Laboratory. "Wartime Food Procurement and Production," by Benjamin Baker, has appeared from King's Crown Press, Columbia University, N. Y. It is a paper-bound study of the administrative procedures and techniques utilized by the Federal Government in directing wartime food production and procurement programs. It is $3.25 a copy.

USDA gets together

PROGRESS is in full swing in the physical consolidation of USDA State and county offices, as called for in Memorandum 1278, and 848 county consolidations have already been carried out in 47 States, or 28 percent of the total. State office personnel of the Soil Conservation Service, the Production and Marketing Administration, and the Farmers Home Administration are being moved into the same State offices as rapidly as space can be provided for efficiently accomplishing such consolidations. Before February 15, 1951, offices of these agencies were consolidated in only 3 States—Kentucky, Mississippi, and New Hampshire. State offices of the agencies were located in different cities in 23 of the remaining States, and in different office locations within the same city in the other 22 States.

Where State offices are already in the same city, the only problem has been in locating space for the consolidations. Where they have been located in different cities within the same State, decisions have had to be made as to which agencies should move, and in which cities the consolidations should be. So far, authorization has been given for consolidating offices in 12 States where they were previously located in different cities, agreement having been reached between agencies as to the most advantageous headquarters location. Final decisions are near on most of the remaining States, although quite a few problems still exist. Even where the new headquarters city has been selected and authorization has been given to move, actual consolidation must often await negotiation of leases for suitable quarters.

In all of the consolidation moves, USDA has been guided by the combined objectives of economy and increased efficiency of operations, with consideration of such factors as convenience of travel and improved postal service. States where moves from other cities have been authorized to bring about consolidation, and the city in which consolidation will take place, include: Oregon—Portland, Washington—Spokane, Virginia—Richmond, Colorado—Denver, Indiana—Indianapolis, California—Berkeley, Iowa—Des Moines, Louisiana—Alexandria, New Mexico—Albuquerque, New York—Syracuse, Rhode Island—Providence, and South Dakota—Huron.

Don't wait to learn safety by accident!

Natural rural groups

YOU SHOULD consider yourself very lucky if you get 50-percent participation in any new rural organization you formally establish. But you can do better. Research by USDA workers has shown that the country is filled with natural rural groups with natural leaders. So far about 33,000 such groups have been recognized and they have a membership of nearly 300,000 farm families. If, instead of starting off afresh with your work—whether it be Production and Marketing Administration, Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, or what, it does not matter—you instead ascertain the leaders and membership of these natural groups, you can get far better participation in your programs and objectives than by attempting to superimpose a new formal organization on the natural groups. Then they may be not only unsympathetic but actually hostile.

These natural rural groups may cluster around a neighborhood or locality, a trade center, a church, a political or geographical unit, a school, or even a large family. You can consult people district- or county-wide to secure the names of more important community leaders, then talk to them to get information about smaller groups and their leaders, and verify your findings by consulting the membership of the group to identify its leaders positively. The leaders, in turn, will identify their group members and, if the leader is interested in your project, say soil conservation, he can interest his group in it far better than you can. Regardless of the area or region in the U.S., this system works. SCS has made wide use of it and has workers especially trained in the recognition and utilization of these natural community groups. At times farmers will even naturally group themselves if a photograph is taken of a large number of them together and the groups can be identified on the picture.

It is far better to work with these natural groups than to superimpose what may be an alien grouping upon them. Insofar as we do this, we succeed much better in putting across our plans and programs; insofar as we ignore the natural local groups, we make our work much more difficult. These and other facts of great interest and importance on the subject were brought out recently at a Secretary's Staff Meeting by Carl C. Taylor of Bureau of Agricultural Economics, J. Douglas Ensminger of Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, and Alfred M. Hedge of SCS.

Family farm policy

USDA's Family Farm Policy Review is now getting true farmer and lay reaction from counties and States to its Provisional Report, and tentative recommendations will be made by State and County Agricultural Mobilization Committees, a most crucial step. An account of this program was given on page 1 of *USDA* for January 17. It amounts to a Nation-wide, Department-wide review and critical analysis of USDA programs and policies to determine how they may be rendered more effective in serving the family farm during the mobilization emergency, as well as in normal circumstances. The Provisional Report resulted from several months of hard work in Washington by a group of USDA employees assigned the job of reviewing each agency's programs and policies to recommend improvements. Their tentative reports were reviewed by a committee of agency representatives, representatives of major farm and church organizations, and the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities. Agency reports were combined into the USDA Provisional Report and a limited number of copies was made available to each county for study and use by discussion leaders.

In his letter transmitting the completed report to Secretary Brannan, Under Secretary McCormick, Chairman of the Family Farm Policy Review Subcommittee, explained:

> As was your original intention, this report is intended merely as a starting point for the widest possible consideration and discussion by farmers and farm groups throughout the Nation. From such discussion we hope to evolve final recommendations reflecting the broadest possible cross section of the opinions and ideas of American farmers themselves. We believe such an appraisal will make a valuable and constructive contribution to the future guidance of the Department, and to the eventual formulation of improved national policies for the well-being of American agriculture.

State and County Agricultural Mobilization Committees are now being asked to have the policy review considered locally, all farm groups and interested farmers being asked to participate. County reports and recommendations are due back to State Mobilization Committees by September 15, 1951, and State reports summarizing and accompanying individual county reports should be returned to Washington by October 15.

Annual "Golden Weed" report

The boys in the Tobacco Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, contend we made a mistake in the June 6 issue of *USDA*. Title of the item second from the top, last column, page 3, should have been "Annual Golden Weed Report!"

Snow surveys

ONLY 20 PERCENT of the State of Utah is above 7,000 feet in altitude, but it contributes 70 to 80 percent of the annual run-off. That run-off comes from snow. In 1934 snows were very light and, by April 1, it was clear that Utah irrigators would have only about 35 percent of their normal water supply. So the governor called a "drought conference" before the drought occurred, and advance plans were made to meet the problem. Today George D. Clyde is Chief of the Division of Irrigation and Water Conservation, Soil Conservation Service, which is in charge of snow surveys, an unusual activity participated in by private groups and public agencies cooperatively.

The snow survey consists in measuring annually the depth of snow and the water content of the cover at fixed stations in the high country. Coordinating offices compare these figures with records from the same courses in previous years and of stream flow over the years. This enables them to forecast, weeks and months in advance, the quantity of water each stream will carry to help fill irrigation reservoirs, or to overflow and cause disastrous floods. Results of snow surveys are used by everybody in the West from farmers to forest-fire wardens and flood-control engineers. They give reliable information about how much water will be available for irrigation, power, industrial and municipal supplies, and other uses. Irrigation farmers plan their acreages and choice of crops to fit the water supply as thus forecast.

Clyde describes as Nature's near-perfect reservoir the winter snowbanks that accumulate in the western mountains, and are often 30 feet deep. As the snow blanket melts, water is released to flow into man-created reservoirs. How long the water can be made to last depends on an accurate survey, good management, and the total supply. Here is an unusual organization that does work of prime importance.

Harper succeeds Kotok

Edward I. Kotok has resigned as assistant chief of Forest Service in charge of research to take a position with the Food and Agriculture Organization in Chile. He was succeeded by Director Verne L. Harper of the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Upper Darby, Pa., who joined FS in 1927. A native of South Dakota, Dr. Harper took his M. S. at University of California and his Ph. D. in forestry at Duke University. He has helped plan national research programs, supervised Nation-wide forest-resource surveys, and directed studies in forest economics. He will now coordinate all FS research activities in 7 divisions in Washington; 12 regional forest and range experiment stations; 62 forest, water, and range research centers; 102 experimental forests; and the Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wis.

AMERICANISM

Americanism is an unfailing love of country; loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity. (Sent in by Perez Simmons of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, stationed in Fresno, Calif.)

Brief but important

2,4–D increases yields

How the judicious use of 2,4–D on badly weed-infested fields of wheat, oats, and barley can considerably increase yields is the subject of a mimeographed statement of which you can get a copy by *writing* the editor of *USDA* and asking for No. 1286.

Alaska's soils

Agriculture Monograph No. 7, just issued, is an "Exploratory Study of the Principal Soil Groups of Alaska" by Charles E. Kellogg and Iver J. Nygard of Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. It includes material on the agricultural potentialities of the soils, and is well illustrated and documented.

System

"System in the County Extension Office" is Agriculture Information Bulletin No. 28, dated March 1951. It contains a great deal of valuable information about the proper management not only of county extension offices but of any sort of offices at all. It deals with the physical set-up of the office and human relations therein, and was prepared by Field Agent Karl Knaus of Extension Service.

Farm storage facilities

A recent survey of 7,000 Georgia farms, probably typical of the Southeast, made by the Georgia USDA Council and Production and Marketing Administration, disclosed that 74 percent of their storages could not be fumigated effectively for insect control, that 96 percent were not rodentproof, and that fewer than half offered good protection from the weather. Wallace Ashby, who heads USDA's work on farm buildings and rural houses, emphasizes that adequate storage should offer protection from all sorts of hazards, such as leakage, weather, insects, rodents, or anything that can spoil a stored crop. For more details on this *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1274.

Accelerating chick growth

Recent experiments at the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md., carried on by L. J. Machlin, C. A. Denton, W. L. Kellogg, and H. R. Bird, have shown that diets containing antibiotics and 19 percent of protein are as effective for growing chicks as those containing 21 percent or more of protein. A 2-percent reduction here would save almost 10 percent of the protein in starter and broiler mashes, which could mean annual savings of 125,000 tons of protein, the equivalent of 280,000 tons of soybean meal, which is substantial in view of the present feed-supply situation. Antibiotics paired with vitamin B_{12} have brought about revolutionary changes in swine and poultry feeding during the past 2 years, and have enabled feed manufacturers to substitute protein of vegetable origin, such as soybean meal, for part, if not all, the more expensive protein of animal origin formerly used.

Ray Weir to Liberia

Ray Weir, who retired from Office of Plant and Operations a while ago with a California-way look in his eyes, has instead gone to Liberia as an administrative aid in the technical cooperation program.

Poultry dressing plants

Miscellaneous Report 147, "Plans and Operations of Farm and Small Commercial Poultry Dressing Plants," by George A. Amacker and John J. Scanlan, reports the results of a Research and Marketing Act study, and is available from the Farm Credit Administration, USDA.

P. A. Berry to El Salvador

P. A. Berry, USDA entomologist, has gone to El Salvador, at the request of its government, on a Point IV assignment. Mr. Berry, who has been in Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine since 1929, has had long experience in tracing plant diseases to their insect vectors and in investigations on the biology and habits of beneficial insects of value in pest control. A native of Missouri, he took his B. S. in entomology at the College of Agriculture, University of Missouri.

Christenson succeeds Carter

Walter Carter, who organized and directed the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine investigations on control of the oriental fruitfly in the Hawaiian Islands, has resigned to return to the Pineapple Research Institute, in Honolulu, as entomologist. He has been succeeded by Leroy D. Christenson, a graduate of Utah State who did additional work at the Universities of Minnesota and California, and entered EPQ in 1926. If introduced into the U.S. the oriental fruitfly might become extremely destructive as it is one of the most serious pests of numerous fruits, vegetables, and nuts. For more details on the work Mr. Christenson will direct, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1359.

USDA research

Part I of the report entitled, "Research and Related Services in the U.S. Department of Ariculture," prepared for the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, Eighty-first Congress, Second Session, gives a fine presentation on this subject. It is readable, clear, interesting, and covers crop-production, livestock, insect, utilization, economic, and marketing research, and also the service activities in connection therewith. It is part of the socalled "Pace Report" which as a whole comprises 39 chapters, but it is an excellent thing to have in itself. To get copies write the editor of *USDA* and ask for it by title, or just say you want Part I of the research report.

Ag specialists needed abroad

This country needs 600 agricultural specialists to represent it in technical cooperation and the Point IV Program abroad. The USDA Office of Personnel is developing a national roster to recruit such personnel. Employees with professional academic training, plus several years of responsible professional experience in the field of agriculture are required. Research and extension are the principal categories of work, greatest need being for those trained in these phases of soils, forestry, crops, animal husbandry, pest and disease control, agricultural engineering, economics and marketing, and the social sciences. Appointments are exempt from Civil Service examination, the positions pay from $5,370 to $10,330 a year, and candidates should preferably be between 30 and 60 years of age. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1342, or contact the USDA Office of Personnel.

EPQ reorganized

The Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine has been reorganized to get the most possible good from its manpower and equipment resources. This was achieved by consolidating direction of regulatory and control operations, as well as administrative functions, under single administrative heads in five strategically located headquarters: Greenfield, Mass., Northeastern Region; Gulfport, Miss., Southeastern Region; San Antonio, Tex., Southwestern Region; Berkeley, Calif., Western Region; and Minneapolis, Minn., North Central Region. If you want more details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1303.

Marquis promoted

Dr. Ralph W. Marquis, assistant chief, Division of Forest Economics, Forest Service, has been appointed Director of the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Upper Darby, Pa., succeeding Dr. Verne L. Harper who became assistant chief of FS in charge of research. A native of Minnesota, Dr. Marquis took his A. B. at University of Washington and his Ph. D. at Wisconsin, his doctoral thesis having been Economics of Private Forestry. He taugh economics at University of Rochester, 1931–39, and came to FS in Washington in 1940. He was on special defense projects during World War II and was at the Pacific Northwest Experiment Station, Portland, Oreg., 1945–47.

Honor overtakes Quintus

Sometimes it takes an honor a little time to catch up with a man. In 1948 and 1949, Paul E. Quintus, head of the Fats and Oils Division, Office of Foreign Agriculture Relations, was Chief of the Food Rationing and Distribution Section, Food, Agriculture, and Forestry Group, Bipartite Military Government control office in Germany. As such, he had a lot to do with the operation of the Berlin airlift. He was so important to its operation, in fact, that he recently received from the Army a Commendation for Meritorious Civilian Service Overseas in recognition of his service. The Commendation credits him with devising and implementing new procedures for assuring the uninterrupted flow of large tonnages of specially chosen and packaged food for shipment on the Berlin airlift. This, the Army said, "contributed greatly to the success of the airlift" and "brought great credit to himself and to the U. S. Government."

Forest experiment station changes

Harold L. Mitchell, since April 1946, director of the Central States Forest Experiment Station, Columbus, Ohio, has been appointed director of the Southern Forest Experiment Station, New Orleans. He was succeeded at Columbus by Philip A. Briegleb who has headed the Division of Forest Management Research, Pacific Northwest Forest Experiment Station, Portland, Oreg. Mr. Mitchell is a native of Michigan who was educated at the University of Minnesota School of Forestry and at Harvard. He has been in Forest Service continuously since 1939, and headed the Lake City, Fla., branch of the Southern Forest Experiment Station before going to Columbus. Mr. Briegleb is a native of Missouri, who attended the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse, and joined the staff of the Pacific Northwest Forest Experiment Station soon after graduation. During 1944 he surveyed Chilean forest resources at the request of the Ambassador from Chile and, from November 1944 to May 1946, he was engaged in a special forest survey at the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Upper Darby, Pa.

Director Wilson to Europe

Director Wilson of Extension Service recently made a brief trip to Europe under the auspices of Economic Cooperation Administration, to follow up his earlier work with the Organization for European Economic Cooperation and to attend extension sessions of a Food and Agriculture Organization meeting in Rome.

From EPQ

"Controlling Grasshoppers in Alfalfa with Chlordane and Toxaphene Sprays," (E–819) by R. L. Shotwell, is now available from Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. So also is another processed publication entitled "Development of Insect Resistance to Insecticides—II, A Critical Review of the Literature up to 1951, "(E–818) by Frank H. Babers and John J. Pratt, Jr.

Revised poultry regulations

Revised regulations covering the grading and inspection of poultry went into effect July 1. Published as a proposal in the Federal Register, March 13, 1951, they have been reviewed by industrial, health, sanitation, and State Department of Agriculture officials, and have been officially adopted by the USDA with minor revisions. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1325.

Rutgers reviews microbiology

Fifty years of progress in soil microbiology was reviewed June 12 at Rutgers, the occasion serving as a tribute to the late Dr. Jacob G. Lipman, whose appointment, in July 1901, as soil chemist and bacteriologist at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station marked the beginning of systematic study of soil organisms in this country. He headed the first department in any American university devoted to such study.

Horse farm to Vermont

On May 7 the President signed Public Law 26, Eighty-second Congress, which transferred the Morgan Horse Farm, near Middlebury, Vt., to the College of Agriculture, University of Vermont. The Vermont Legislature voted during 1951 to accept the farm and appropriated $40,000 to operate it the next 2 years. The farm dates from 1907 when Colonel Battell, founder of the American Morgan Register, gave USDA 400 acres of land 2 miles north of Middlebury, and additional acreage later. In 1917, 550 acres more was purchased from Middlebury College.

Film shows hay grades

Colorado hay growers and merchants have proved in a unique way that "hearing about something a hundred times is not up to seeing it once." They use motion pictures to show prospective customers what they have to offer. B. H. McConnelly & Sons, Ft. Morgan, Colo., pioneered in this method. The senior member of the firm was here recently as a member of the hay advisory committee. The McConnells found years ago that few U.S. farmers know what high-grade hay is and how it is made. Fewer than 1 million tons are graded out of our hundred-million-ton annual hay crop. So they went into the field and took 8-millimeter color moving pictures of every step of the haying operation. They showed the standing alfalfa clean and free of weeds; the early stage at which it is cut to insure high protein content; how it is put into windrows quickly to hold its leaves and color; and how it is baled with a pick-up baler. When new customers want to know about Colorado hay the McConnells send them the film and tell them to see for themselves.

Nonfat dry-milk-solids standards

If interested, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1375.

Columbus Directory

The new USDA Directory for Franklin County and Columbus, Ohio, is a handsome and informative job, giving concise but sufficiently complete details about the functions of each agency there, as well as key personnel. The Columbus USDA Club has done a grand job.

Changes in dairy regulations

Minor revisions have been made of the proposed new regulations governing the grading and inspection of dairy products, required by administrative separation July 1 of the currently combined dairy and poultry grading and inspection services. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1343.

Dr. Price dead

Dr. David J. Price, USDA chemical engineer and authority on dust explosions and farm fires, who retired from Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry in 1949, died May 28, at his home in Washington, D. C. A native of Pennsylvania, he was educated at Pennsylvania State College, George Washington University, and American University, and spent 35 years in Government service.

Award to Magoon

The "highest award the Army can bestow on a civilian" was recently presented to Dr. Charles A. Magoon, who retired from the Administrator's Office, Agricultural Research Administration, in July 1948. Dr. Magoon was one of a group so recognized for their services on the Technical Industrial Intelligence Committee of the Joint Chiefs of Staff set up by General Marshall during World War II. Secretary of the Army Frank Pace, Jr., made the presentation, and General Marshall personally commended the group for their work.

Star Garden Book

The Star Garden Book must be a practical publication, for at last count about two-thirds of the fellow Garden Club members of Bill Youngman (Grain Branch, Production and Marketing Administration) and his wife, who wrote it, had bought copies at the Club's monthly luncheons. The information in the book covers everything from handling the inhospitable soil around Washington, through seeding, fighting pests, to harvesting the vegetables that a small or large family may desire; also flowering bulbs, lawns, shrubbery, and annual and perennial flowers.

Kitchen safety

Dr. Earl McCracken, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, says that safety should not be overlooked when improving a kitchen. Here is some evidence that consumers and manufacturers are increasingly interested in safety. Some stoves have burner grates with smaller openings designed to hold small utensils without tipping. Petcocks on some gas stoves are supplied with safety locks to keep small children from turning them on. The lids of chest-type freezers are designed to hold tight in any position when opened. There are now "sputter-stoppers" for deep-fat fryers, pan lifters operated by a spring on a long handle, and plastic shields that snap over electric outlets so that young children cannot remove them.

Dairy-cattle cross-breeding

A committee of six land-grant college scientists, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to make a study of the cross-breeding work conducted on dairy cattle by the Bureau of Dairy Industry, Beltsville, Md., has reported that this work should continue.

Time!

The Parker Pen Co., of Janesville, Wis. discontinued the use of time clocks, and the long lines that punch them, in favor of a system whereby each employee on honor keeps his or her own time. So far the system works. Employees don't cheat perceptibly and are far better satisfied.

Farm freezer survey

A survey of 160 farm walk-in-type refrigerator-freezers to determine their advantages and shortcomings has been carried on as a Research and Marketing Act project, and is being used to guide USDA research workers in developing more useful and efficient farm refrigeration units. If interested in a concise summary of the findings *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1367.

Publicity

Many of you who deal with the farmer in person would find much of interest in an article in "Printers' Ink" (25 cents a copy, 205 East Forty-second Street, New York City 17) for May 4, 1951, entitled, "30 Do's and Dont's on Publicity." While directed primarily at the problems of businessmen and industrialists, it will give you much insight about how to write and offer farm news stories to editors, and so on.

Coons to Europe

Dr. George H. Coons, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering sugar beet pathologist, has gone to visit 11 European countries to learn as much as possible about virus yellows, a disease not yet known to have gained a foothold in this country, but which we want to know how to combat, if and when. It has reduced sugar yields as much as 50 percent in affected fields in England, Holland, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, and France.

Coffee?

"Walk around any metropolitan business district between 9:00 and 10:30 in the morning; you'll think the work day has ended, not begun. Thousands of workers are streaming out of their office buildings and packing into corner coffee shops." So says "Printers' Ink" for June 2, but the Mutual Life Insurance Co. did something about that. It arranged with a nearby shop to bring coffee and pastry through the 12 floors of its offices every morning between 9:15 and 10:30, so that employees could enjoy both and remain at their desks. The company saved $130,000 a year in man- (and woman-) hours! The employees liked the service!

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USDA
Employee News Bulletin

FOR JULY 18, 1951

Practical farm aid

HOW PRACTICAL our farm-aid programs are is illustrated by the stories of two colored sharecroppers and tenants. James Hooper of Reidsville, N. C., barely broke even on the poor eroded land for which he paid $25 an acre 8 years ago. He went to his county agent, T. D. Williams, who called in Soil Conservation Service technician Grady Wise, and they told him how to improve his land by adopting sound soil conservation practices. Today he wouldn't take $200 an acre for his 175 acres of farm land. He has become soil conservation champion of his State, his modern farm is valued at $10,000, his corn yield increased from 8 to 75 bushels per acre, his wheat from 20 to 37, and his tobacco from 800 to 1,200 pounds per acre. This resulted directly from the complete soil and water conservation plans devised for his farm by Wise and Williams.

A. B. Jones of Lillie, La., sought the help of another agency, Farmers Home Administration, and it was just as practical and effective. Having possessions valued at less than $400, he has increased his net worth to $11,000 over a decade. State Extension Leader R. J. Courtney says he now has one of the best-managed farms in his State. County Agent Joseph Hightower assisted him to improve his pasture and his corn yields. The FHA loan came, of course, with helpful supervision which was followed to the last detail. Though Jones paid up his loan 5 years ago, he and his wife still follow the management practices they learned under the FHA supervisor. They had exactly $34 between them when they purchased their marriage license in 1934. As a tenant Jones never cleared more than $350 a year. Today his annual gross income is more than $3,000 annually.

Deac Martin, who should know, says that public relations is getting credit for good conduct.

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Cash awards

THE FOLLOWING individuals have received cash awards for adopted suggestions during the period of April 1 through April 30. (Detailed information concerning the suggestions may be secured from the Bureau Efficiency Award Committee):

Farmers Home Administration—CELESTINE L. BOBZIN, Montgomery, Ala., $50; JOHN A. CHENOWETH, Portland, Oreg., $50; CHARLES D. DUNN, Denver, Colo., $20; LAWRENCE L. FIEDLER, Indianapolis, Ind., $50; Mrs. LOYD N. JUSTICE, Montgomery, Ala., $10; J. G. REDDINGTON, Montgomery, Ala.. $25; GEORGE T. WATKINS and MARIE T. KAHN, Denver, Colo., joint award, $20.

Forest Service—PETER P. KOMBLEVITZ, Cadillac, Mich., $50.

Production and Marketing Administration—MARY D. FEINBERG, Minneapolis, Minn., $10; ELEANOR L. FUTSCHER, Minneapolis, Minn., $15; RUTH E. GAULT, Detroit, Mich., $25; EVELYN C. HECKROTH, New York, N. Y., $25; KATHRYN W. HUGHES, Washington, D. C., $15; JOHN J. JAMES, Jr., Chicago, Ill., $15; MARION L. JAMES and WILLIAM F. BROWN, San Francisco, Calif., joint award, $45; HENRY JOHNSON, Chicago, Ill., $15; KERMIT S. LICHTER, Bozeman, Mont., $25; WENDELL H. MARANDER, Minneapolis, Minn., $10; DALPHINE B. MCGUIRE, Manhattan, Kans., $10; HELEN H. MEHRWIN, Kansas City, Mo., $10; CLYDE C. MILLER, Washington, D. C., $60; GLORIA ANN NANNANGA, Manhattan, Kans., $10; SOL ORDEN, Washington, D. C., $10; VERNA M. SCHULT, Washington, D. C., $25.

Soil Conservation Service.—PRESTON L. HANCOCK and DWIGHT LYTLE, Lincoln, Nebr., joint award, $50; RONALD B. RAKOW, Lincoln, Nebr., $75.

E. D. White to ECA

E. D. White, formerly Assistant to the Secretary, has accepted an assignment with the Economic Cooperation Administration as Deputy Director of the Food and Agriculture Division. Mr. White has had 25 years service with USDA, beginning as a county agent in the Extension Service, in 1926, at Little Rock, Ark. He was chairman of the Arkansas AAA Committee in 1934, and came to Washington in 1936. He has held various responsible positions in the Department since that time and during the past 2 years has been on a part-time assignment as Assistant to the Secretary on matters relating to cotton, and Chief of the Cotton, Wool, and Fibers Branch of the Economic Cooperation Administration. Mr. White has traveled throughout the world on cotton affairs and is presently Chairman of the International Cotton Advisory Committee in addition to his other duties.

For superior work

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment and Certificates of Merit were recently awarded employees, as indicated below:

Bureau of Agricultural Economics—WENDELL GRAHAM, statistical clerk, Columbia, S. C.

Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry—LOUISE D. PRESCH, fiscal accountant, Washington, D. C.

Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering—IRENE H. BROGDEN, clerk-stenographer, Knoxville, Tenn.

Farmers Home Administration—GEORGE D. WALES, farm management supervisor, New Rockford, N. Dak.

Forest Service—GLENN E. BRADO, forester (administration) (district forest ranger), Sawtooth National Forest, Idaho; WILLIAM O. COTTER, fire control aid (general), Eldorado National Forest, Calif.; ROBERT S. DIMMICK, forester (administration), Shawnee National Forest, Harrisburg, Ill. EARL G. DUNFORD, forester (forest influences), Fort Collins, Colo.; HOMER E. GERMAN, forestry aid (timber management), Flagstaff, Ariz.; ALBERT O. HANSEN, property and supply clerk, Medford, Oreg.; STANLEY R. JOHNSON, forester, Mississippi National Forest, Miss.; ROBERT S. KURTENACKER, general engineer (packaging), Madison, Wis.; THELMA MACGREGOR, clerk-typist, Santa Fe, N. Mex.; GEORGE S. MEAGER, forester (forest management research), Tucson, Ariz.; HUDSON GILLIS REYNOLDS, agent (range conservationist—research), Tucson, Ariz.; TRYGVE P. STRAND, automotive mechanic, Nicolet National Forest, Rhinelander, Wis.; BERT H. TUCKER, forester (timber management), Dixie National Forest, Utah.

Library—NATALIE RILEY, auditor, Washington, D. C.

Office of Personnel—MARIE C. ELLIS, administrative assistant, Washington, D. C.

Production and Marketing Administration—FLORENCE H. ADAMS, clerk-typist, Hayti, Mo.; CLAIBORNE H. BEASLEY, processed fruit and vegetable inspector (district), San Francisco, Calif.; JAMES P. DAVIS, administrative officer, Little Rock, Ark.; MARGARET M. G. DEHMER, clerk-typist, New York, N. Y.; WILMER M. GRAYSON, chemical engineer, University, La. (Certificate of Merit); W. HAWARD HUNT, technologist, Beltsville, Md.; JOHN E. LARRISON, mechanical engineer, Stoneville, Miss.; MORRIS H. NEUSTADT, grain technologist, Beltsville, Md.; DOROTHY NICKERSON, cotton technologist, Washington, D. C.; WILLIAM E. PAULSON, marketing specialist, Washington, D. C.; HAROLD C. SLADE, cotton classer, Washington, D. C.; NORMAN S. SMITH, investigator, Washington, D. C.; ROGERS THOMPSON, clerk, Washington, D. C. (Certificate of Merit); LAWRENCE ZELENY, agriculturist, Beltsville, Md.

Rural Electrification Administration—BESS M. WOOD, commercial accountant, Washington, D. .C.

Soil Conservation Service—RONALD I. BLEWITT, work group engineer, Littleton, Colo.; LULA D. FORREST, clerk-stenographer, Raleigh, N. C.; ROBERT E. HARTMAN, photographer, Spartanburg, S. C.; H. ALLEN NOTTORF, soil conservationist, Ellsworth, Kans.; JOHN PALSCE, geologist (ground water), Worland, Wyo.; HAROLD EDWIN RUSSELL, soil conservationist (staff), Portland, Oreg.; JAMES E. SCARBROUGH, soil conservation aid, Eupora, Miss.; GEORGE P. WATTHALL, soil conservationist, Montgomery, Ala.

California cotton research needs

USDA engineers recently outlined California cotton research needs. If interested in details, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1475.

Fungus makes antibiotics

THE VARIETY and complexity of present-day scientific investigations has emphasized the importance of research byproducts. The symbiotic (help-each-other) relationship between sciences, particularly the biological ones, becomes more and more apparent, a great encouragement from the standpoints of economy of time and money. A recent example of this concerned the Division of Forest Pathology, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., the department of botany of Columbia University, and the New York Botanical Garden. Ross W. Davidson, forest pathologist, supplied scientists of the two New York institutions with cultures of wood-rotting fungi. One of these, *Clitocybe illudens*, the common jack-o-lantern mushroom, according to a report by Anchel, Hervey, and Robbins in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, May 1950, produced two antibiotic substances, illudin S and illudin M, both of which were found in test-tube tests to inhibit various organisms, including *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. It appears so far that the two antibiotics, as produced by the fungus, are not usable as a means of combatting the disease in animals. The report says both were tested on white mice by injection and in each case killed all of them.

Something of the possible extent of material as a basis of research for such antibiotics can be seen in estimates given in the Dictionary of Fungi. The authors estimate a probable 100,000 species of fungi on the earth, of which more than half remain undiscovered. But the number of species gives only a small idea of the extent of variation among these forms of life. John A. Stevenson, head of the USDA Division of Mycology, says there are probably dozens of strains on the average for each species, and new ones appearing all the time.

Gordon Zimmerman leaves

Mr. Zimmerman, Chief of Information for Soil Conservation Service, has resigned to become public relations man for Harry Ferguson, Inc., makers of farm equipment, first in and around Washington, then in Detroit permanently. Born in Spokane, but educated in Washington, D. C., and University of Maryland, Gordon has been an important factor in the widespread program of SCS since the agency was established 16 years ago. He joined the staff of the Washington Daily News when fresh out of the university but, 2 years later, signed up with the small group of those who, under the guidance of Hugh H. Bennett, were laying the ground work for SCS and a national soil conservation program. D. Harper Simms, with SCS since 1936, and chief of its Information Division for the Southwest Region at Albuquerque since 1943, has been named as Gordon's successor.

Sweetpotato lore

AS A BYPRODUCT of his extensive studies of diseases and behavior of sweetpotatoes in storage, Dr. J. S. Cooley has produced a comprehensive paper on the Origin of the Sweet Potato (May "Scientific Monthly"). His article, checked by two anthropologists and a geographer, says it is still a mystery how this crop "evolved within the convolvulus family." But this is practically the extent of his playful speculation; he goes on, giving his readers 5,000 words of well-sifted and readable lore and no more demonstration of the Attic-salt shaker. He reports that, in prehistoric times, the sweetpotato was used in the American tropics and some of the islands of the Southwest Pacific. Much as the ancient civilizations of Egypt, China, Babylon, Persia, India, Greece, and Rome knew, they left no indication they knew this food that Cooley likes as well for eating as for investigating.

He says the people of tropical America were using it long before Columbus came, but not those in the area now the U. S. He says maybe the Mayans had later carried it into temperate parts of America or traders picked it up. Virginia colonists were growing sweetpotatoes as early as 1648. There is evidence that the sweetpotato was introduced to the Maoris of New Zealand at a very early date from the Polynesian Islands, long before the Spanish reached America. Since the Maoris had no grain, this root became their most important food crop.

Today the scientists and others well informed on the techniques essential to the preservation of sweetpotatoes, stress the importance of heat curing and warm storage. But this is nothing new by any means—except as to exactness. Dr. Cooley figuratively takes off his hat (he seldom actually wears one) to the early people of New Zealand and tropical America for their primitive perspicacity in figuring out these vital facts.

Yes, they have some bananas

In Guatemala corn is expensive and is used mainly for human food, but bananas are cheap and plentiful. This led scientists at the cooperative experiment station there, operated jointly by the Government of Guatemala and our Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, to try feeding pigs with bananas. Duplicate groups were fed corn or ripe bananas, skins and all, as their main source of carbohydrates. While younger pigs grew more rapidly on the ripened bananas than on corn, older pigs reversed the tendency. Regardless of this difference between the growing and the fattening periods, it was concluded that bananas could satisfactorily replace corn in pig rations, especially when cheap and abundant.

"CROPS IN PEACE AND WAR"

This is the title of the 1950–51 Yearbook of Agriculture, 960 pages of text and drawings published June 29, which is primarily a report on work in the laboratories of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry. Special attention is paid to the industrial and alternative uses of strategic products and to the tools of research. The USDA gets 12,000 copies of the Yearbook for libraries, reviewers, collaborators, contributors, and such. A few copies go to USDA employees, but nearly all copies of the Yearbook are distributed by Members of Congress. However, the USDA Library has plenty of copies to loan. If you feel you must have a copy, appeal to your agency head or else pay $2.50 for it to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. The Office of Information and the Yearbook editor have no copies even for friends they hold dearest. While farmers are always uppermost in the minds of those who work on Yearbooks, this issue will also interest city people, industrial workers, manufacturers, housewives, handlers of byproducts, and processors. There was no 1950 Yearbook, but only a rerun of "Grass," the 1948 Yearbook.

Brief but important

Mary Rokahr honored

Mary Rokahr of Extension Service received a distinguished service award from the University of Nebraska recently, an honor conferred annually on a carefully selected group of alumni and former students.

Assistance on weed control

The department of agriculture of the Canadian Province of Saskatchewan makes assistance payments to rural municipalities and local improvement districts for the control of perennial weeds with 2,4–D or by other means. Leafy spurge, Russian knapweed, hoary cress, and toad flax seem to cause the most trouble.

Crawford leaves the Household

Nelson Antrim Crawford, prominent Kansas writer and teacher of journalism, who was USDA's first Director of Information after the Office of Information was established in somewhat its present form, has resigned as editor of Household magazine, a position he has held for 22 years, or ever since leaving the Department. He was selected as Director by Secretary Jardine.

Lay-outs and illustrations

"Proportions for Bulletin and Booklet Layouts and Illustrations," is the title of a useful and informative processed publication from the Department of Agricultural Journalism, University of Wisconsin. Prepared by Grace E. Langdon and Byron C. Jones, it was commended to our attention by Prof. W. A. Sumner. It merits your consideration and you can get copies from the University at Madison, Wis., for 50 cents each.

What's in a food

A new leaflet entitled "Food Values in Common Portions," has been prepared by specialists in the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics to guide those who want a general idea of the number of calories different foods provide for body energy and the quantity of protein, key minerals, vitamins, and other nutrients they contain. Designed primarily for students, nurses, doctors, and others who want such a simple, quick reference table of food composition, it can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., at 5 cents a copy, coin, not stamps.

Mexican cotton production

A Research and Marketing Act study of Mexican cotton production is to be made by P. K. Norris, agricultural economist in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, giving particular attention to the influence of expanding cotton acreage in Mexico on the world cotton supply, and to some techniques used in cotton processing.

Livestock parasite killers

"The New Insecticides for Controlling External Parasites of Livestock" is a new compilation by E. F. Knipling. It runs 28 pages, is quite comprehensive both as to insects and insecticides covered, and may be procured from the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, where Dr. Knipling heads the Division of Insects Affecting Man and Animals.

Reseal corn program

Farmers will be permitted to extend their Commodity Credit Corporation loans on the farm-stored 1950-crop corn through July 31, 1952. In addition, any 1950-crop corn covered by CCC-purchase agreements will be eligible for loan until this date. The reseal loan on 1948–49 crops, however, will not be extended for another year.

Foreign co-op marketing

John H. Heckman, Farm Credit Administration marketing specialist, has been assigned temporarily to Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations to study cooperative marketing and buying practices abroad under the Research and Marketing Act. This follows a survey Mr. Heckman made last year for FAR in connection with Glenn E. Riddell, a Soil Conservation Service specialist.

A forestry report

There recently came to the desk the Biennial Report, 1949–50, of the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, Asheville, N. C., outlining accomplishments and activities in Federal and cooperative forest research there during these 2 years. This is the Station Director I. T. Haig left in March 1951, to head research and technology for the Food and Agriculture Organization's Division of Forestry. E. L. Demmon now directs it. The processed report is readable, well-illustrated, and highly informative.

Colorado range study

A report has been issued on a year's study of range and watershed conditons on two sample grazing allotments east of Estes Park, Colo., in the Roosevelt National Forest. The study was made last year under supervision of the Chief of Forest Service to find how effective adjustments in livestock use have been, and also to determine the additional adjustments or other measures needed to attain desirable range management and promote satisfactory watershed conditions. For a summary of the study *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1395.

Hails Colombia and botanists

In an article on *Herrania*, a wild relative of the cultivated cacao, Dr. Richard Evans Schultes, a botanist and plant explorer, a USDA specialist working mostly on rubber plants, incidentally paid his respects to the country of Colombia and to botanists: "Primarily Colombian in its distribution and named by a French botanist in honour of one of Colombia's great presidents, the genus *Herrania* may be cited as one example of scientific progress brought about, at least in part, through the long and honorable botanical tradition which has without interruption stimulated Colombian culture and has thus helped advance the cause of knowledge for the entire world."

Pioneer "home dem" agent

Mrs. Dora Dee Walker died recently in South Carolina, aged 93. "Mother" Walker became a county tomato club agent in Barnwell County, S. C., in 1911, and was thus one of the first to hold a position as what we now call home demonstration agent. In 1915 she organized the first home demonstration club, in Bethel community, Sumpter County, S. C.

PMA area operation

Under a realignment of administrative lines by G. F. Geissler, Administrator of Production and Marketing Administration, five area directors stationed in Washington will be responsible for all PMA programs carried out through State and county offices. The five and their regions are: Area 1, Northeast, C. Ely Wickham; Area 2, Southeast, Robert H. Reed; Area 3, Midwest, John W. Brainerd; Area 4, Southwest, Emery E. Jacobs; Area 5, Northwest, Alvin V. McCormack. The revision is made in line with recommendations by State committees and others.

The good old days

James Halley, a native of Scotland, died in Washington, D. C., March 2, 1926, aged 97. Born June 21, 1829, he entered the Department of Agriculture as a cabinet maker a month and a half after it was founded, July 1, 1862. He retired August 20, 1920, at the age of 91. So far as is known his record stands, for no one as old or older has ever worked in USDA. How they managed such longevity in those days without their vitamins is very puzzling. If you are still working here and are older than 91 please communicate with the editor who will send you his deepest sympathy. But maybe you only feel 91!

Valuable sugarcane byproduct

Research Achievement Sheet No. 137 (C) recounts the achievement of scientists in the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry who developed a method by which a useful byproduct, aconitic acid, from which chemicals used in making plastics, synthetic rubber, detergents, and other industrial prducts are derived, was recovered during processing sugarcane, or from the residual molasses after the sugar is crystallized. The account is complete, bibliography, cost, value, and all on one sheet. Procure these sheets from Office of the Administrator, Agricultural Research Administration.

New edition of Maris book

In response to public demand a second edition of 5,000 copies of "The Land Is Mine," by Paul V. Maris has been issued. The first edition went almost entirely to State, county, and local Farmers Home Administration offices to be used in training field workers. But members of other agencies and the general public as well were interested. The book describes the 12-year history of a Federal program that enabled 65,000 families to buy family farms, and, in cloth binding, is on sale at $1.75 a copy from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C.—check or money order.

Dahlia grower's appreciation

There was sent us recently a copy of a letter dated May 18, in which a dahlia importer, R. E. Simon, expressed high appreciation of the services rendered by such Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine employees as George G. Becker and his associates, Mr. James T. Scott, stationed at St. Louis, in particular. Unfortunately too long to quote in our small space, the letter expressed hope that USDA supervisors in Washington, D. C., would learn of Mr. Simon's pleasure at the prompt, efficient service, and considerate cooperation given him in recent dealings with these employees, while Mr. Scott was pronounced "a prince of a fellow."

4–H fellowships

Two $1,200 fellowships for 9 months' residence and study in the USDA were awarded two former 4–H Club members in Washington, D. C., June 19, at the twenty-first National 4–H Club Camp. They were Elaine M. Skucius of Lexington, Nebr., and Merle Lee Howes of Towson, Md., both now county extension workers. During their stay in Washington they will devote half their time to study of USDA activities, about a third to some specific research problem in 4–H Club work, and the remainder to academic work.

Award to PMA

The National Wholesale Frozen Food Distributors, Inc., presented to Production and Marketing Administration its Distinguished Merit Award plaque for 1951, with the citation: "For its alertness in recognizing the potential benefits to rural producers and to urban consumers of reducing handicaps of seasons and distances through the quick-freezing process; and for its progress toward developing more adequate and useful data to facilitate the Nation-wide distribution of choice frozen foods." PMA has made several studies on facilities and methods used in the marketing of frozen foods, and has established grades and standards for frozen fruits, vegetables, poultry, and eggs.

Dr. Brandes retires

Dr. Elmer W. Brandes, a native of Washington, D. C., who was educated at Michigan State, Cornell, and University of Michigan, retires July 31 as head of the Division of Sugar Plant Investigations, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, after 32 years of service. He entered the old BPI as a plant pathologist in 1919, directly from service in World War I, having been employed for 2 years before the war at the Puerto Rico Agricultural Experiment Station. He was notable for research that identified the insect vector of "yellow stripe", for his expeditions to islands of the South Pacific in search of disease-resistant wild sugarcanes which helped put the domestic sugar industry back on its feet, for directing breeding work that resulted in new varieties of sugar beets resistant to curly-top, and for his knowledge of tropical agriculture which caused him to be placed in charge of the World War II rubber-research program. He received a Distinguished Service Award in 1949, and has many other honors.

Aid to India and Ceylon

On May 31, USDA information people and the local press heard of wheat conditions in India from Horace C. Holmes, and about rice growing in Ceylon from J. M. Thomason (both from Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations). Mr. Holmes, just back after 3 years in northern India, says both wheat and rice are short in the south because of 5 years' failure of the monsoons. If the over-all food production could be raised 12 percent, the food situation, on the basis of present requirements, could be taken care of. Even this increase over a period of years might not keep up with the rising birth rate. Wheat naturally grows well in India under favorable conditions, but the farmers use implements similar to those used 2,000 to 3,000 years ago. With limited means of spreading communication, the farmers need practical demonstration work such as county agents could give. They are anxious to learn and are cooperative. Mr. Thomason, back after 1 year in Ceylon, says the natives eat rice three times a day, but since their cash crops are rubber and tea, they are forced to import most of their food. Ceylonese rice production could be improved through the use of pure seed, modern transplanting methods, and irrigation. These talks evidenced the practicability of the Point IV Program.

From Connecticut

"Frontiers of Plant Science," edited by Amanda Quackenbush, is a lively illustrated quarterly publication of four large pages that you might want to see. Address inquiries to her at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven.

Soil chemist wins award

Dr. C. E. Marshall of the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station, engaged in the study of the physical chemistry and mineralogy of soils, received the 1951 Holbitzelle National Award in the Agricultural Sciences, consisting of $5,000 cash and a gold medal.

Red Sindhi cattle

We have copies of a "Progress Report of the Red Sindhi Cross-Breeding Experiment at Beltsville, Md.," by M. H. Fohrman, R. E. McDowell, and J. F. Sykes of the Bureau of Dairy Industry, and Douglas H. K. Lee of Johns Hopkins University, who is a collaborator. If you want a copy *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for the Red Sindhi cross-breeding report.

Soil savers have good credit

In "A Program for County Banks—1951," the Agricultural Commission of the American Bankers Association says that a copy of the farm plan for soil conservation "should be made available to banks and become a part of the farmer's credit file." This is right in line with the basic philosophy of Soil Conservation Service that the soil is a sound basis for agricultural credit when it is not subject to erosion and is properly utilized.

Penicillin in opera?

The Opera News for December 11, 1950, published by the Metropolitan Opera Guild, carried an article on "The M. D. in Opera," wherein we read, "The most questionable medical ethics in opera are undoubtedly those of Dr. Miracle in 'The Tales of Hoffman.' This strange and sinister figure resorts principally to parlor tricks, violin playing, and crude hypnotism. He does not entirely scorn medications, indeed is constantly waving flasks like someone trying to grow penicillin. . . .!"

Latin American dairy market

George H. Day, marketing specialist, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, is conducting a dairy-products marketing study in Puerto Rico, Brazil, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, and Panama. This is a Research and Marketing Act project designed to provide comprehensive information on long-term prospects of marketing U.S. dairy products in Latin America. Mr. Day's findings will supplement a study he made in early 1950 of existing and potential markets for U.S. dairy products in the Caribbean area. Copies of this earlier report covering Cuba, Venezuela, El Salvador, and the Netherlands Antilles are available from FAR.

Spending for food

The National Industrial Conference Board reported recently on changes in consumer spending habits. Among other things it noted that, whereas food took 45 cents out of the average moderate-income family's dollar in 1901, it took only 35 cents in March 1951. Modern families are said to spend much more on recreation, house furnishings, and automobiles than did such families in 1901, and the portion of the dollar spent on absolute necessities has dwindled. A rise in real wages that has permitted a higher standard of living is cited as the cause, the figures upon which the study is based having come from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Forest land burned

During 1950, Forest Service reports that 208,402 fires burned 15,518,540 acres of forest land in this country, approximately the same area burned by fewer fires the previous year. If you want a detailed summary on the subject *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1487.

Harvesting snap beans mechanically

If interested in this subject, you might like to have a concise summary of some observations by Dr. W. J. Zaumeyer of Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., on Topcrop, a variety he developed, which is heavy-yielding, disease-resistant, widely adaptable, of excellent quality, grows nearly all its pods at once, and can be harvested mechanically. To get copies *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1463.

Webb leaves BDI

Dr. Byron H. Webb, who has conducted and supervised research on milk and milk products in the Bureau of Dairy Industry for 25 years, has resigned to undertake commercial research. His major projects have dealt with improving the quality of concentrated milk and utilizing dairy byproducts in human foods. A native of New York City, he was educated at University of California, George Washington, and Cornell.

Tomatoes

"Tomatoes—Facts for Consumer Education," is the title of AIB-32, a new and different reference bulletin by Irene Wolgamot of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. Designed to give dependable background information to teachers, writers, extension workers, marketing specialists, and others who strive to help consumers make the best use of daily food, it is 10 cents a copy, coin, not stamps; address Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C.

Jones comes to Extension

L. I. Jones, former extension director in Mississippi, has joined the staff of the Extension Service in Washington, where he will be primarily concerned with the coordination of Federal extension educational work on cotton and grassland programs. In his work on cotton, he will serve as coordinator of educational phases, at the Federal level, of production, utilization, and marketing, and will help develop cooperative programs pertaining to extension work in cotton-producing areas.

Golden Jubilee

The Federal Experiment Station, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, center of USDA's tropical research, celebrated its fiftieth anniversary on July 2. Soon after the Spanish-American War, Congress authorized that Puerto Rico be surveyed agriculturally. Dr. Seaman A. Knapp, who helped establish many State experiment stations, and fathered the Extension Service, made the survey. His report to Secretary James Wilson was transmitted by President McKinley to Congress December 10, 1900. Experimentation commenced in 1901, and the new agricultural experiment station began operation at Mayaguez, in 1902. Benefits of the various grant-in-aid acts were extended to Puerto Rico in 1931. Kenneth A. Bartlett is the Station's present Director. The following from USDA participated in the anniversary of this Station, which has made material contributions to agricultural research and the welfare of Puerto Rico: Nathan Koenig, Office of the Secretary, who presented the Station's Unit Superior Service Award, and R. W. Trullinger and E. C. Elting, Chief and Associate Chief, respectively, Office of Experiment Stations.

Radio-frequency grain drying

If interested in research investigations on the use of dielectric, or radio-frequency heating, to dry or condition grain, as reported by USDA engineers Finis T. Wratten and Leo Soderholm, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1495.

New feed mixer-grinder

USDA and Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station engineers have developed a new, experimental, completely automatic feed grinder and mixer that will soon bring push-button feed-processing right to the farm. If you want more details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1494.

Briggs of Wyoming

Dr. Hilton M. Briggs has become director of extension in Wyoming, succeeding A. E. Bowman, recently retired. Director Briggs is a native of Iowa who took his B. S. and M. S. at Iowa State and his Ph. D. at Cornell. Since September 1, 1950, he has been dean of the College of Agriculture and director of the experiment station in Wyoming. He was earlier on the teaching staffs of North Dakota Agricultural College and Oklahoma A&M.

How's your grapevine?

Do you depend on a grapevine to keep your office, section, division, or laboratory informed? If not, what methods do you use to ensure that all members of the staff have the accurate information they need to do an efficient job? How are your intra- and interoffice communications? Which methods work best—memoranda, conferences, staff meetings, bulletin boards, or what? Time after time we find out about staff members who are entirely unaware of activities carried on by their own office colleagues in which they could be helpful and would be vitally interested, if they knew. How do you avoid such an impasse? We'd appreciate your communications on this subject; we hope lots of you write in.

Research achievements

The story of work by the Southern Regional Research Laboratory, which produced mildew- and rot-resistant cotton yarn and fabric by a process of partial acetylation, is told in Research Achievement Sheet No. 136 (C). Sheet No. 138 (C) gives a complete account of the specially adapted pasteurization process which greatly enlarged the market for cucumbers by making a new-type pickle available, a research project of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry and the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, in cooperation with Charles F. Cates & Sons Co., Faison, N. C. These sheets may be procured from the Office of the Administrator, Agricultural Research Administration.

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR AUGUST 1, 1951

Mr. Owen speaks out

L. B. OWEN is a career employee of USDA who has climbed from Grade 2 to be Chief of the Administrative Services Division for the Farmers Home Administration area office in Denver. He wrote a guest editorial which was published in the Denver Post for June 13, citing Federal Government employment as a fine career and taking issue with those who belittle and condemn it. As he said, the most important human endeavor of our age and the greatest single force working for a better world is the U. S. Government. He then quoted Chester A. Bowles, as we have previously in *USDA*, regarding the unusually high caliber of the men and women who work unusually hard for this Government. Mr. Owen then continued as follows:

The reputation for inefficiency, rigidity, and incompetence which has been fastened upon the public service is the invention of the demagogue and the fellow who just doesn't know what he's talking about. I will match the record of our fellow workers in the United States Government with those anywhere for ability, integrity, accomplishment, and loyalty, both to their jobs and to their country. Experience has proved and is proving every day that the federal civil service is coming into its own as a career service.

The responsibility of running the people's business is being more effectively assumed every day by those who have devoted their lives to government service. We want good men and women from private industry to help in many situations and many ways. We are proud of this partnership of businessmen and government's men. However, at the same time we cannot lose sight of the fact that men and women in government service grow with the job just as do those in private industry. Private business executives are good, of course, but so are we.

This, then, is my answer to those who would advise young people of America not to choose government service as a career. The government of today is the servant of the people. It serves them in more ways and with greater effectiveness than ever before in our history. The demands of this service have been created by the advance of science, industry, and the government working together and the steady growth of the United States from a frontier outpost to a world leader.

Definition: Juvenile delinquency is just children acting like their parents!

958356°—51

"Office Manners"

WE ARE indebted to an English hospital superintendent for the following ideas. Be accessible to everyone and do not let your secretary become your jailer. Decide before a visitor enters how long you can spare for the interview, have a clock handy so that you can sneak a glance at it now and then, give the visitor your entire attention, do not hurry him, and, above all, have your secretary take your phone calls the while. No successful interview can be hurried and no one can talk without irritation to an impolite person who is answering the phone every minute or so. Have your secretary bring you urgent messages in writing, if necessary.

Answer all letters the day they come in. If you take care to have no "pending" tray on your desk, you will find this easier. If you or your agency are at fault, admit this frankly, but deny false allegations politely and prove the contrary. Let your letters be dignified, clear, concise, direct, and never pompous or unfriendly. Do not be intimidated by your secretary; never send off a badly written letter because you fear to inconvenience her by having it retyped. Use the telephone sparingly and mainly in emergencies, otherwise see people personally or write. Never keep the other party waiting until the spirit moves you to pick up the receiver.

Above all, never become office-bound. However submerged you feel in memoranda, visitors, and other office chores, get out and look around at least an hour or so a day to see, without snooping, how things are going. Not all problems, troubles, and difficulties will be brought to your office, and a really good supervisor actually looks for trouble, then tries tactfully to help. In that way you can head off many big problems while they are still very little ones.

Tragedy hits REA

SIX STAFF members of the Rural Electrification Administration, en route from a staff conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, were killed June 30, in the crash of an air liner in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado: George W. Haggard, Deputy Administrator; Arthur W. Gerth, Chief of the Applications and Loans Division; I. Thomas McKillop, Chief of the Management Division; Stuart E. McCabe, an assistant section head, and Robert E. Beeghly, a field representative of the Applications and Loans Division; and Thomas L. Evans, a field representative of the Engineering Division.

Mr. Haggard succeeded William J. Neal as Deputy Administrator, November 1, 1949, having joined the REA staff a year earlier. He had recently concerned himself largely with the rural telephone program. A native of Texas, he had been a teacher, a newspaper editor, the executive secretary of the Texas Farm Bureau Federation, and general manager of the Texas Power Reserve before coming to Washington. Mr. Gerth was a native of Missouri who had been in Government service since 1933, joined REA in 1937, became assistant chief of his Division in May 1942, and its Chief in March 1943. He played a leading part in applying the well-known area-coverage policy to rural electrification.

Mr. McKillop was a native of Scotland who had been a member of the staffs of Packard Institute, New York City; the City College of New York; American University in Washington, D. C.; and the USDA Graduate School. He joined REA in March 1946 as an industrial engineer and management specialist. Mr. McCabe was an Iowan, with previous experience in the telephone business, who joined REA in February 1950 to work in the new rural telephone program. Mr. Beeghly was a native of Florida who joined REA in April 1950 as a telephone-loan appraiser, and transferred in June 1951 to Abilene, Tex., as an area appraiser. Mr. Evans was a native of Illinois who joined REA in 1946 and worked in Washington, D. C., a short time before being transferred to the field staff of the Engineering Division at Clovis, N. Mex. The sudden tragic death of these six top officials has dealt REA a terrific blow.

Co-ops

If your interest lies in the field of cooperatives you will doubtless want to read "Cooperatives in the National Emergency," a speech delivered recently by Under Secretary McCormick; to get copies *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1556.

Sol

UP THERE without a period following it is the official abbreviation for USDA Office of the Solicitor. Organized under a statutory provision of 1910, it does the legal work of the Department. Maintaining a high standard of professional excellence, since it and its work are entirely professional, it does its best to preserve the American system of law and order in the realm of agriculture. This, under our system of Government, entails work, plenty of it.

In 1 year Sol has handled some 425 administrative proceedings, taken part in about 1,600 court cases, prepared 17,000 opinions and legal memoranda, answered 32,000 requests for oral advice, passed on or prepared 5,600 contracts and 13,000 land-title documents, handled 5,300 new and serviced 17,500 old loans, attended 11,000 corporate matters and 821 patent actions, read, reviewed, or revised 43,000 letters, examined 6,000 investigative reports, and referred 4,000 cases to the Department of Justice, the Comptroller General, and the Department of the Treasury. There is no important branch of the law, from international down to domestic relations, with which the Office does not have something to do every workday. The volume, importance, and diversification of Sol's work reflects the myriad activities of USDA, one of the greatest program agencies of any government in the world. Our lawyers work, and how.

Activities of Sol cover litigation, our marketing and regulatory laws, rural electrification, commodity credit, production, adjustment, agricultural credit, forestry, soil conservation, and a variety of miscellaneous general legal services. Things come up under every act and activity that require attention—just think of the Packers and Stockyards Act, commodity credit, the International Wheat Agreement, crop insurance, the sugar program, farm-marketing-quota program, far-flung farm credit, water-facilities loans, liquidation programs, patents, the Research and Marketing Act, and so on, and on. No wonder Secretary Brannan has said that every administrative activity and most other work of the USDA is performed with more assurance and security because our Office of the Solicitor is such a grand shop doing such a fine job.

Southern agriculture

You will find a great deal of interest on this subject in a speech delivered by Secretary Brannan recently; to get copies *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1551.

Candy for the boys

SOMETHING for the boys appears to have been in the mind of Dr. L. F. Martin, Southern Regional Research Laboratory, New Orleans, when he reported recently on new types of improved confectionery for the Armed Services, and civilians as well. These have been made by the addition of soybean protein, brewers' yeast, sweet whey, and other farm-derived ingredients, while methods have also been developed to keep candy fresh longer. The latter aim is accomplished by the addition of approved antioxidants which keep the fats from deteriorating, better storage, and other methods resulting from research carried on jointly by personnel of the Southern Lab and the National Confectioners' Association.

Intensified work along the line of producing more nutritious candy as well as opening new outlets for agricultural products is under way in close cooperation with the food laboratories of the Quartermaster Corps. A major objective here is to produce a wide assortment of candy that can stand the very severe handling and storage requirements foods must undergo when used as supplies for troops on distant fronts and under severe climatic conditions. Methods that lessen the deterioration of butter and vegetable fats, candy ingredients that spoil quickly, open the possibility of including large quantities of fat-containing candies in military rations. These would be a desirable addition to the diet of men at the front.

Temperatures and crops

IDEAL temperature for storing fresh fruits and vegetables may range from 32° to as high as 60° F., says W. T. Pentzer, who directs USDA research on the handling, transportation, and storage of horticultural crops. Benefit to the family food-shopper from such research is a year-round market supply of high-quality fruits and vegetables. The right temperature differs with different kinds of fruits and vegetables. About 32° F., the temperature at which water freezes, is best for lettuce, spinach, and other greens, cauliflower, broccoli, green peas, snap beans, and sweet corn. If kept warmer, these vegetables lose flavor and freshness. For example, the sugar in sweet corn and peas turns to starch. Among fruits, most varieties of apples, pears, peaches, plums, grapes, and berries hold quality longest when stored just above their freezing temperature.

But other fruits and vegetables, such as melons, cucumbers, and squash, keep fresh longer if stored at about 45 to 50° F. Lemons, sweetpotatoes, and unripe tomatoes need to be kept at around 55°. Potatoes should not be stored where it is colder than 40°, as below that their starch turns to sugar. Tomatoes and melons spoil before they ripen below 40°. The subtropical fruits do best if stored at moderate temperatures: For example, 40° to 45° F. for ripe pineapples, and no lower than 50° for unripened pineapples; from 48° to 50° for mangoes, 45° for papayas, and 40° to 45° for avocados. Olives, particularly the ripe ones, develop internal browning if held where it is colder than 45°. Between 56° and 60° F. is ideal for bananas, which explains why they should never go into the refrigerator.

Meat grade girl

NOT LONG AGO the white-capped nurses sat in an amphitheater of Bellevue School of Nursing, New York City, to hear Miss Kay Nawn of Production and Marketing Administration lecture on the quality, cut, grade, and selection of meat. Miss Nawn presents her lecture-demonstrations all over the country wherever professional and consumer groups request them. Because the U. S. Grade marks indicate meat of specified quality, shoppers of all sorts find them a useful guide. These Federal Grade marks now apply to beef, veal, lamb, and mutton, and under Distribution Regulation 2 of the Office of Price Stabilization, virtually all meat now slaughtered in this country—pork excepted—must be graded federally.

To become meat graders candidates must meet rigid job requirements for experience and training. The grader must conform to carefully defined Federal standards when examining meat to determine its quality. These concern such matters as characteristics of the lean; quality, distribution, and character of the fat; and proportion of edible meat to bone. When the grader is satisfied that the carcass or wholesale cut meets the standard for a specified grade he stamps on "U. S. Good," or "U. S. Choice," or whatever the grade may be, using a roller stamp across the carcass in such a way that the mark will appear on retail cuts.

As Miss Nawn points out, this information enables the shopper to know whether she is getting a grade of meat commensurate with the price paid, and it helps her to choose the grade best suited for the purpose she has in mind—say Good, Commercial, or Utility for dishes prepared by moist heat, as in braising, or Prime or Choice if she intends to broil.

Cooking methods vary with the cut as well as the grade of meat. Therefore Miss Nawn uses colored slides to enable shoppers to recognize the beef cuts. Her lectures have been in steady demand for 2 years and she has made a very great contribution to consumer education.

Brief but important

More meat

"More Meat for Defense, Methods of Obtaining More Efficient Livestock Production," is a new, attractive, and helpful processed booklet prepared by the Bureau of Animal Industry, from which you may get copies.

New worker list

"Workers in Subjects Pertaining to Agriculture in Land-Grant Colleges and Experiment Stations, 1950–51," is new Agriculture Handbook No. 15, which you procure as you do other printed publications. The *USDA* editor has no stock.

Let's save the soil, kids

Soil Conservation Service has reproduced an attractive booklet useful in the education of grade-school children, originally prepared by Resource-Use Education, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Ala., and entitled "Let's Save the Soil with Sam and Sue." It is simple, direct, and well illustrated.

Lactoprene EV

This is a new synthetic rubber developed by scientists in our Eastern Regional Research Laboratory. It maintains its rubber-like qualities both at high temperatures and in oil, and can be made from lactic acid derived from sugars and starches in various farm commodities. You will find all the details about this interesting and valuable work in Research Achievement Sheet No. 130 (C) which you may procure from Office of the Administrator, Agricultural Research Administration, USDA.

Employee needs

"Meeting Employee's Needs" is the title of an article in "Rural Electrification News" for June-July 1951 available from Rural Electrification Administration. Based on a presentation by John W. Asher, Jr., of REA's Personal Division, it is directed at co-op employee needs, but contains much useful information for anyone interested in such matters. For one thing "gripe sessions" are recommended during which employees speak out about their complaints and make constructive criticisms uninhibited by the presence of supervisors. Read the acticle yourself; you'll find this well worth while.

O for a good secretary!

This anguished cry of the stymied boss, and closely related problems, was the subject of a talk given some time back before a secretarial training luncheon in USDA by the late I. Thomas McKillop, Chief of the Management Division, Rural Electrification Administration. It is full of pleasant banter as seasoning for much good wholesome meat and is something all should read who aspire to be or already are secretaries or bosses. Mr. McKillop strongly stressed those mysterious intangibles which do so much to foster a healthy symbiosis (hunt it up, then) between boss and secretary. We are sorry nobody told us about this talk sooner, but we have managed at last to purloin 100 copies of it, possibly far too few, for those of you who *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for the McKillop talk on secretaries.

Soil scientists to Belgian Congo

Dr. John G. Cady of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering and Dr. Gerard A. Bourneau of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, have gone to Belgium Congo as members of an ECA mission. They are to classify and map soils there.

Two new presidents

USDA Director of Personnel T. Roy Reid is the new president of the Society for Personnel Administration. Daniel M. Braum, formerly of the USDA Office of Personnel, and now training officer for General Services Administration, is the new president of the Washington Chapter, Society for the Advancement of Management.

Bill Sumner appears, vanishes

Prof. Wm. A. Sumner of agricultural journalism, University of Wisconsin, flashed briefly through Washington recently on leave of absence en route to Paris to become an ECA consultant. He said, among other things, that his university, through its social science division, now offers a Ph. D. degree to majors in agricultural journalism.

Peirce retires

Earl S. Peirce, in charge of Federal-State cooperative fire-control for Forest Service, has retired after 30 years of service which began in FS in 1910. Between 1921 and 1933 he was director of extension for the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse. A native of Maine, he took his Ph. D. from Yale and studied a year at Yale Forestry School. Between 1910 and 1921 he served in various capacities on the National Forests of the Rocky Mountain Region.

EPQ's Southeastetrn boss

W. G. Bruce had been selected as director of the Southeastern Region, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, with headquarters at Gulfport, Miss. Identified for nearly 30 years with research and control of insects that affect the health and welfare of man and animals, he directed USDA's screwworm-control campaign in Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina from Atlanta headquarters, 1935–36, and has since been leader of EPQ's research laboratory at Savannah.

Harry Irion

Harry Irion has retired after about 50 years of service, first with the Census, the Post Office, and the Civil Service Commission and, since 1908, with Forest Service, where he became administrative officer of program planning. A native of Ohio who took his law degree at George Washington, he has always taken a keen interest in Government employee welfare, and was a leader in the USDA Welfare Association, the Credit Union, the Government Employees Mutual Relief Association, and the Organization of Professional Employees of the USDA.

Citrus waste

Harry W. von Loesecke of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry reminds us that solid citrus waste can be dried and used either as feed or fertilizer, while a considerable quantity of citrus molasses recovered from the liquid waste is also useful as feed. A great increase in citrus processing, from 7 million boxes, or 9 percent of the 1930 production, to 70 million boxes, or 46 percent of the crop in 1949, produces this vast accumulation of waste, as about 60 percent of the fruit remains behind in the form of peel, rag, and seeds, and waste disposal offers a problem.

Naval stores regulations

Proposed revisions of regulations for administration and enforcement of the Federal Naval Stores Act have been announced. If interested in details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1582.

Watermelon

Delightful as watermelons already are and always have been, the U. S. Vegetable Breeding Laboratory, Charleston, S. C., is producing still better ones with improved resistance to disease and the hardships of shipment.

Processed fruits and vegetables

A proposed revision of inspection fees and sampling rates for processed fruits and vegetables and their processed products, and for certain other processed foods were announced June 28. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1575.

Kaven to India

Roland H. Kaven, extension specialist in livestock and general crops, has gone to join four other Point IV workers in India, at the request of its government. A native of Michigan with his B. S. from Michigan State, Mr. Kaven has worked as a county agent in that State since 1935.

World rice crop

If interested in the world rice crop and probable demand you may want to *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1574, which summarizes the findings of Isom Deshotels, who has returned from southeast Asia after conducting a study of present and potential rice production, consumption, and foreign trade for the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations under the Research and Marketing Act.

Dr. Lowe retired

Dr. Clifton D. Lowe, extension animal husbandryman, has retired after about 28 years in his present position, where he fostered educational programs and activities in his specialty throughout the Nation. A native of Ohio, Dr. Lowe graduated from Ohio State University and, before he assumed his present position, served at Penn State, the University of Tennessee, and with the Southern Railroad Co. and the Aberdeen-Angus Breeder's Association, in the Bureau of Animal Industry, and elsewhere. He is widely known for his educational work and received a Superior Service Award in May 1951. His first job with USDA was as a meat inspection tagger for BAI in 1904.

Go see!

One of the most important jobs a supervisor has is to go see. In fact, if you want anybody at all to do anything for you, go see. Time after time they will tell you: "O Mr. Everclutch is handling that," or "That was referred to Miss Featherbrain." But go see. Like as not you'll find neither Mr. Everclutch nor Miss Featherbrain ever heard of the thing, it hasn't reached their desk, it is lodged somewhere else, they know nothing of the urgency of the matter, and there you are. Accept no one's word about such things. They may not be dishonest, they may have good intentions, they may think their referral of the matter has solved the problem, and they are lazy enough to believe others are at work on it. Consciously or unconsciously they have overlooked or misinterpreted actual conditions. So go see. It will get you a terrible reputation as a needler, but it is the only way in the world to get anything done until too late for it to matter.

Miss Wanstall retires from FCA

Grace Wanstall, who compiled statistics and history of the farmer co-ops for the Cooperative Research and Service Division, Farm Credit Administration, has retired after 34 years of service with USDA. She worked solely with cooperatives the entire time, and received a Superior Service Award in 1948.

Frozen-food lockers

Two new reports are available now from Farm Credit Administration, USDA: M. R. 146, "Frozen Food Locker Plants—Location, Capacity, Rates, and Use, January 1, 1950," and M. R. 148, "Frozen Food Locker Cooperatives in Illinois, 1949;" L. B. Mann and Paul C. Wilkins of FCA are the authors of both.

New use for soybeans

The complete story of how workers at our Northern Regional Research Laboratory in Peoria showed that a better glue for the paper casings of shotgun shells could be made with a soybean adhesive, will be found in Research Achievement Sheet No. 140 (C) which you may get from Office of the Administrator, Agricultural Research Administration.

Extratight, waterproof cotton

An improved, inexpensive loom attachment for weaving extratight, naturally waterproof cotton fabrics has been developed at our Southern Regional Research Laboratory. Engineering drawings and samples of experimental fabrics produced are available to interested cotton mills and other organizations who address the Laboratory at 2100 Robert E. Lee Boulevard, New Orleans 19, La. For a brief description of the device and its use, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1559.

Dr. Merriam A. Jones to Guatemala

Dr. Jones, who joined USDA in 1939, served 6 years at the Federal Experiment Station, Mayaguez, P. R., but who, since 1946, has been a research chemist with the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial C emistry, has gone to Guatemala to join seven Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations technicians already at work in the jointly operated agricultural experiment station there. A native of North Dakota with his B. A. from the University of that State, who attended University of Minnesota and took his Ph. D. in chemistry at George Washington, Dr. Jones will engage in work under the now famous Point IV Program.

C. R. Arnold retired

C. R. (Cap) Arnold, Production Credit Commissioner, Farm Credit Administration since 1940, has retired after 30 years of service with FCA and Extension Service. He supervised the 500 Production Credit Associations and the 12 Production Credit Corporations, the former now having 460,000 farmers and ranchers as members and stockholders. He had a big hand in helping build the production credit system from scratch to a yearly business of a billion in loans to farmers and ranchers to produce crops and livestock, and he helped establish the first PCA at Champaign, Ill. The PCA's have now whittled their original 90 million in Government capital down to 15 million, many being outright farmer-owned. "Cap" is a native of Willamette Valley, Oreg., and holds degrees from Ohio and Minnesota. From 1920 until 1933 he was in extension work at Ohio State, and he has also taught agricultural economics, farm management, prices, and related subjects. He visited Europe in 1936, studying farm co-ops and acting as a delegate to the International Economic Conference.

This is prune juice

The California Prune and Apricot Growers Association, a co-op in San Jose, Calif., pioneered with its Sunsweet prune juice during the difficult twenties. It finally developed and produced a tasty, healthful drink that caught on with consumers. For the complete story see "News For Farmer Cooperatives," for July, available from Farm Credit Administration.

Human societies

If you are interested in the evolution and formation of human societies as related to insect and lower-animal social organizations, you can hardly do better than read "Of Societies and Men," by Caryl P. Haskins, published by W. W. Norton & Co., Inc., New York City, at $3.75 a copy. Some of the accurately presented insect lore is fascinating as well as fully documented.

Holiday for USDA

Baudilio Vega Berrios, Mayor of Mayaguez, P. R., proclaimed July 2, 1951, a municipal holiday so that the people of that city might express their gratitude to the USDA for having selected it as the site for the Federal Experiment Station, and pay tribute to the Station's technical and administrative staff. This also was in honor of the Station's Golden Jubilee.

Krantz retired

Earl B. Krantz, for many years animal husbandman in charge of the U. S. Morgan Horse Farm, Middlebury, Vt., has retired after more than 25 years of service with the Bureau of Animal Industry, where he engaged in horse and mule research. Mr. Krantz is a native of Nebraska who graduated in animal husbandry at Iowa State and took his master's degree in the same subject at Washington State.

Inspection services

The USDA has issued procedures and instructions for the administration of a cooperative Federal-State poultry inspection service, effective July 1. Copies of the instructions may be obtained from Poultry Branch, Production and Marketing Administration. The USDA also announced increased fees, effective July 16, for the inspection of fresh fruits and vegetables and other products, since the fees must cover the costs of services rendered; for details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1567.

Dawson to Iran

James R. Dawson, a USDA dairy husbandryman for 28 years, has gone to Iran to join the Point IV village-improvement project and assist the Ministry of Agriculture in its livestock research program. For the past 24 years he has supervised breeding, feeding, and management research at the Bureau of Dairy Industry's half-dozen field stations. He pioneered in research resulting in the use of high-quality forages as a single ration for dairy cows, and proved that the then prevailing custom of feeding 1 pound of grain for every 3 pounds of milk produced was costly and inefficient. He is the author of about 50 research publications. A native of Missouri, he took his B. S. at Kansas State and his M. S. at University of Missouri. He worked in dairy extension before joining USDA. He attended the International Grasslands Conference at Aberystwyth, Wales, in 1937, and served as instructor in dairying at the Biarritz American University in France, at the request of the War Department in 1945–46.

Director Kemp retiring

Director W. B. Kemp of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, who was last year a member of the Doane Study Group appointed by the House Agricultural Committee, and is widely and favorably known among the directors, has retired.

Henry C. Waterman

Mr. Waterman has retired as chemist in the Office of Experiment Stations, after serving the Government for 33 years. He is a native of New Hampshire who took his B. S. at Dartmouth and entered the old Bureau of Chemistry in 1918. He published more than 20 papers covering research work in that Bureau and some private investigations. He transferred to OES in 1927 to abstract scientific literature for the Experiment Station Record. Mr. Waterman will now live in Tilton, N. H., and carry on research in organic chemistry.

Don Williams' new job

The new assistant chief of Soil Conservation Service in charge of operations is Donald A. Williams, of USDA's Land and Water Resources Staff. He succeeds A. E. Jones who requested reassignment as regional research representative of Soil Conservation Service with headquarters at Lincoln, Nebr. A native of South Dakota, Mr. Williams graduated from South Dakota State College and took postgraduate work at University of South Dakota. He has been on the Land and Water Resources Staff since March 1950, and has served with SCS in various capacities since it was established in 1935. He is an engineer by profession.

TO HONOR WAR DEAD

USDA employees plan to establish a $100,000 scholarship fund as a "living memorial" to the 309 employees who gave their lives in World War II. The memorial will include also a plaque to be placed in the Administration Building. A campaign to raise funds will begin during the summer and will conclude on Armistice Day. The idea will be to set up a 20-year program for providing college and university scholarships to eligible sons and daughters of the USDA's more than 18,000 veterans of World War II. Preference is to be given to children who lost both parents or either parent during the war, and to children of disabled veterans. The sum to be allocated per scholarship will be $1,000 per year, up to a maximum of 4 years. Selection of a memorial in this form was made by the World War II Memorial Committee, headed by Assistant Secretary Knox T. Hutchinson, and following solicited suggestions from employees all over the Nation.

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR AUGUST 15, 1951

Cash Awards

THE FOLLOWING individuals have received cash awards for adopted suggestions during the period of May 1 through June 30. (Detailed information concerning the suggestions may be secured from the Bureau Efficiency Award Committee):

Bureau of Animal Industry—JOHN A. CARLSEN, Omaha, Nebr., $50; MARION H. GORDON, Storm Lake, Iowa, $50; HENRY E. RUTLEDGE, Fort Worth, Tex., $500.

Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering—DEWEY C. MOORE, Riverside, Calif., $30.

Farmers Home Administration—GLENDOLA CRANE, Oklahoma City, Okla., $50; JOAN M. DENNIS, Killdeer, N. Dak., $10; VERNON L. DIXON, New Roads, La., $10; C. B. EVANS and HOWARD NELSON, Dallas, Tex., joint award, $100; OPAL L. FINCHER, Denver, Colo., $10; LORETTA D. GAVIT, Columbus, Ohio, $10; LUCILLE E. HULL, Little Rock, Ark., $60; EMMETT IRVIN, Indianapolis, Ind., $40; ERNA S. JACOBSEN, Portland, Oreg., $15; A. S. JOHNSON, Montgomery, Ala., $50; LEAH P. LAVALLEE, Boston, Mass., $10; JOSEPH H. LINSLEY, Harrisburg, Pa., $10; MARGARET M. SWEENEY, Boston, Mass., $10; DOROTHY M. TESTRAKE, Muscatine, Iowa, $25.

Forest Service—ORA R. AVERY, Baldwin, Mich., $10; DANIEL S. FENNIG, Milwaukee, Wis., $70; C. C. FLOYD, Alexandria, Va., $10; HERBERT B. NICHOLLS, Denver, Colo., $25; ARTHUR O. SCHAFER, Escanaba, Mich., $25; JOHN L. STANLEY, Rola, Mo., $10; JAMES A. TAYLOR, Rutland, Vt., $10; CLARENCE W. WALLEY, Brooklyn, Miss., $70; GUY M. WILKINSON, Alexandria, La., $75.

Production and Marketing Administration—NANCY F. AIKEN, Washington, D. C., $50; HERBERT W. ALLEN, Washington, D. C., two awards, $35; MARVIN A. ANDERSON, Minneapolis, Minn., $85; GEORGE T. BRAZELTON, Jr., Atlanta, Ga., $85; JOSEPH I. CLARK, Kansas City, Mo., $10; R. C. COAKLEY, HENRY KUHLES, and M. A. MOOTZ, Minneapolis, Minn., joint award, $90; IRWIN T. COHEN, San Francisco, Calif., $60; RALPH F. DESIMONE, Washington, D. C., $20; CATHERINE M. DIRAIMO, Kansas City, Mo., $80; MARY E. EMBREY, Washington, D. C., $10; PATTY L. FOUNTAIN, Kansas City, Mo., $10; ANN P. GORDON, Chicago, Ill., $15; HAYES R. GROO, Minneapolis, Minn., $10; PAUL F. HENNESSY, Kansas City, Mo., $10; PATRICIA A. KINNEY and ESTELLE P. BELLEFEUILLE, Minneapolis, Minn., joint award, $20; MARY J. KOKLAS, Kansas City, Mo., $15; VICTOR L. MAHAN, Kansas City, Mo., $45; JUNIUS H. MASON, Chicago, Ill., $10; HELEN H. MEHRWIN, Kansas City, Mo., $40; MILDRED S. MORRIS, Chicago, Ill., $65; SALLY ANN PALES, Spokane, Wash., $95; HORACE G. PARKER, Bozeman, Mont., $215; MARY L. PARKS, Kansas City, Mo., $10; ANN D. PRATT, Washington, D. C., $10; MARGARET H. SARGENT, Kansas City, Mo., $10; MARY JANE SCOTT, Kansas City, Mo., $60; CECELIA M. TOLLEFSON, Chicago, Ill., $65; HELMUTH O. WOLF, Washington, D. C., $50.

Soil Conservation Service—GLENN MUELLER, Malta, Mont., $20.

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Swedish beet breeder

SUGAR BEET breeding in Sweden has about it a glow of optimism, but, paradoxically, its face is not red. This was reflected at Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., June 5 when Dr. J. Rasmusson, Director of the Sugar Beet Breeding Institute at Hilleshog, Landskrona, Sweden, made a talk as the guest of the Division of Sugar Plant Investigations.

What Dr. Rasmusson called "attempts at sugar beet breeding" began in Sweden in 1900 and, by 1928, they had a much improved variety that increased the sugar yield by about 200 pounds an acre—"partly through better adaptation of the crop to conditions there and partly the result of hybrid vigor. Further breeding work," he said, "has produced a variety that tests indicate can add another 200 pounds to the acre. We expect tetraploid beets when crossfertilized with the normal diploids to give us still another increase." Rasmusson stressed the value of breeding for local adaptation, a point of view on which our plant breeders agree.

Northern Lab scientists honored

Dr. Richard Wiebe and Miss Janina Nowakowska of the Northern Regional Research Laboratory in Peoria were honored in July by the American Library Association, with the Oberly Memorial Award for the best bibliography on an agricultural subject published within the 2-year period, 1949–50. The bibliography, "The Technical Literature of Agricultural Motor Fuels," was published by USDA in 1949. It contains 1,562 separate items, fully annotated, gathered from articles in publications in 22 countries. Dr. Wiebe graduated from University of Utah and took his doctorate at University of California; Miss Nowakowska took her undergraduate work at University of Illinois and her master's degree at Loyola University, Chicago.

Rural telephones

THE RURAL telephone loan program of the Rural Electrification Administration is picking up momentum these days, now that the first work of setting up a new program has been largely completed. From the enactment of the legislation setting up the program October 28, 1949, to the end of the fiscal year 1951, REA had earmarked about 40 million dollars in loans to 113 borrowers in 32 States. Twice as many of these loans went to commercial companies as to co-ops, but the loans to the co-ops were larger.

These REA telephone loans will enable the borrowing companies to bring up-to-date service to nearly 156,000 subscribers. Of these about 81,000 are country families or concerns with no telephone of any sort; the remainder now have inadequate service, mostly of the whoop-and-holler, crank-and-grind variety. To provide this expanded and improved rural telephone service, more than 41,000 miles of pole line—including nearly 37,000 miles of new and rebuilt line—will be required.

Experience to date shows that, when borrowers progress to the point of beginning construction for the improved system, many new subscribers in addition to those who signed up for service in the beginning will start clamoring for the shiny dial phones. Judging from this and the additional 83 million dollars in applications for telephone loans pending, it appears that farm families are anxious to remedy their relatively phoneless state. Now less than half of the farm homes in America have any kind of telephone service—and probably only a fourth have the modern, dependable service, which town people take for granted. But, if telephone loans continue to move along at the rate that they are now beginning to move, it won't be long before there is a change in the picture, provided, of course, the world situation doesn't affect the already tight supply situation for telephone construction materials too adversely. REA officials feel that the importance of telephones as a timesaver and production aid to farmers accounts in part for the increasing pressure from all parts of the country for adequate rural telephone service.

"Once Around the Sun"

Above is the title of a very beautiful book by Brooks Atkinson, drama critic of the New York Times. Flavored with both urban and rustic seasonings, it consists of an item a day, a simple think piece or the recounting of an experience, for an entire year. It was published by Harcourt, Brace & Co., of New York City at $4 a copy.

Corn and Point IV

A NEW PROGRAM has been instituted for collecting, classifying, perpetuating, and distributing to plant breeders the many varieties of corn native to the Western Hemisphere. At present, our Point IV technicians engaged in corn-improvement work in foreign lands depend on importations of improved corn, mainly hybrids and high-yielding kinds from the U. S., many of which were developed for specific soil and climatic conditions here, hence are unadapted elsewhere. Fear is expressed that increasing adoption by Latin American farmers of the new improved varieties might lead to abandonment of native seed and loss of valuable maize types. Something must be done to prevent these Latin American varieties from becoming extinct as they are invaluable in corn-breeding work. The major objective of the new program is corn improvement in Latin America. But preservation of germ plasm is essential to corn improvement here as our plant breeders rely on native varieties from Latin America to supply additional factors needed to develop superior varieties.

More than 2,000 maize types will be involved in this new program. Many of the native types are known but are not now available to plant breeders, yet must be perpetuated and rendered available. Funds for collecting and classifying the maize and for storage facilities will be provided by the Technical Cooperation Administration. The USDA will serve in an advisory capacity and give technical guidance to the National Research Council which will operate to carry out the project. Maintenance and distribution of the collections, as well as perpetuation by periodic replanting to replace old seed, will be handled and financed through Council facilities. Refrigerated storage will be used to reduce the cost and work of perpetuating varieties as it will prolong the time that can elapse between replantings. Collection centers will be established and maintained in several Western Hemisphere countries.

Fox-Koffsky Co.

Karl A. Fox, the new head of the Division of Statistical and Historical Research, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, was stepped up from associate head of the unit in April when James P. Cavin left for the Bureau of the Budget. Nathan M. Koffsky, former head of the Demand and Price Section, is the Division's new associate head. Fox entered USDA in California soon after completing graduate study at University of California, and was transferred to Washington in 1946. Koffsky is a Cornell man who has been with the Bureau since 1934 except for his 4-year stretch with the Air Force in World War II.

Brief but important

Recommended reading:

The article entitled "I Am a Bureaucrat," by "Wycliffe Allen," in Public Administration Review (available from the USDA Library) for Spring 1951, the Journal of the American Society for Public Administration.

Changes in TV

On July 6 Alice Skelsi of the Radio and Television Service took extended leave in her home State of Oklahoma, and her research activities in TV have been taken over by Corinne Murphy, a graduate and later a faculty member of the College of Home Economics at Syracuse.

Jeffrey of Missouri

A. A. Jeffrey, veteran agricultural editor for Missouri, has announced his partial retirement, to begin retirement in full next July when he reaches 70. He was succeeded by Ovid U. Bay, associate agricultural editor for Missouri since 1948, and a graduate of the University of Missouri's school of agricultural journalism.

Dr. Louis D. Elliott

Dr. Elliott, Associate Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration, since 1945, retired recently after 39 years of Federal service. He took his A. B. and his Ph. D. from Stanford, entered the old Bureau of Chemistry in 1913, was in the field until 1929, when he came to Washington as senior chemist of the Interstate Division of which he became chief in 1939. He thus served many years in USDA.

Andy Hopkins bows out

We announced a year ago that Andy Hopkins of the University of Wisconsin had begun to retire. It took him until now to complete the job. Fortunately his health is good, his stamina unimpaired, but he just reached a certain age and had to go. Bryant Kearl, a graduate of Wisconsin in agricultural journalism, with a Ph. D. from Minnesota, who has been acting chairman of Wisconsin's department of agricultural journalism since July 1950, has succeeded Andy.

Toothpick query answered

In June 20 *USDA* we asked how much wood was used annually to make toothpicks for the Nation. A reply comes from Extension Forester Ivan R. Martin, Auburn, Ala.: "In 1928 this industry used nearly 7,500,000 ft. b. m. In 1940 it dropped to 3,585,000 ft. b. m. This indicates that: We now have half as many teeth per person; we now have twice as many false teeth; or Emily Post frowned on toothpicks, thereby greatly reducing their Hooper rating." Thanks. Any more answers? And has the use of plastics and materials other than wood increased for toothpick making in recent years?

Credit to the rat

In his Collected Papers in Psychology, Edward Chace Tolman thus explains the contribution of rats to an understanding of human behavior: "Let it be noted that rats live in cages; they do not go on binges the night before one has planned an experiment; they do not kill each other off in wars; they do not invent engines of destruction and, if they did, they would not be so inept about controlling the engines; they do not go in for either class conflicts or race conflicts; they avoid politics, economics, and papers on psychology. They are marvelous, pure, and delightful."

Lonesome British bulls

Great Britain reports that about a quarter of Britain's cattle are now bred artifically, membership in artificial breeding centers having increased from 53,908 in 1949–50 to 70,966 in 1951, and cows inseminated from 431,370 to 567,102. That seems to be just bully for everybody, except possibly the bulls.

"Toxic Chemicals in Agriculture"

This report, published by the British Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, was brought to our attention by M. Whalley Taylor, deputy agricultural attaché at the British Embassy, Washington, D. C. It is a first-class document that should be of immediate interest to every agriculturist in the U. S. Correspond with Mr. Taylor about getting copies.

Extension in Japan

Forest Service recently received a letter from Hidejiro Tanaka of the Research and Extension Section, Forestry Agency, Tokio, Japan, telling how much he appreciated courtesies shown him when he visited here last year, and of the beginning of forestry extension in Japan a year ago, which he credited entirely to F. J. Shulley, who is now in Korea. Mr. Shulley was formerly extension forester in Arkansas where he made an enviable record. He is said to have done more for Japanese forestry than any other one person.

Alaska's first

Kathleen Richards was recently appointed as extension editor in Alaska, acquiring the distinction of being the first person to hold this position in the northwest peninsula. Miss Richards, who majored in geography and graduated from the University of California, has been in the northland for 3 years. She has taught school in several villages, worked for the Alaska Railroad, and served as women's editor for Radio Station KFRB in Fairbanks, where, among other duties, she "emceed" a daily program.

Dr. Buchanan to Liberia

Dr. Thomas S. Buchanan, long a field forestry pathologist for the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, later on the staff of the Weyerhaueser Timber Co., Longview, Wash., but since 1947, associate professor at the University of Idaho School of Forestry, has gone to Liberia to become a member of the U. S. economic mission for developing its agriculture. A native of Washington, educated at University of Idaho, California, and Yale, he follows Dr. Clayton R. Orton, former dean of the West Virginia College of Agriculture, who has been assisting the Liberian government in the fields of agricultural research and extension education since September 1950.

Sorghum gains as food

Since 1945, according to USDA's sorghum authority, Dr. John H. Martin, sorghum has been used in fighting famine both in Asia and Europe, the grain being cooked whole, or ground into meal and blended with 4 parts or more of wheat flour. Sorghum also finds use in making starch, dextrose, edible oil, gluten feeds for livestock, alcohol, adhesives, and a substitute for tapioca. Sorghum for sirup takes but about 1 percent of the 10–18 million acres we grow annually, the remainder being harvested for grain or forage. Martin calls this "orphan" a short-stalked, disease-resistant, drought-evading, mechanized, mass-production cash crop our agronomists found more profitable than 19 other types of farming in the U. S., 1941–49.

A little mite

The chigger is a small mite that is difficult to see but it can cause plenty of trouble, though it does not burrow under the skin as tradition insists. For more on this mighty mite get Chigger Control, USDA Leaflet No. 302, from Office of Information, USDA.

National Forest receipts

Receipts from the National Forests during fiscal year 1951 reached an all-time high of $56,145,857, an increase of 67 percent over the previous year. The receipts were substantially above total operating costs. If you want details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1678.

New cotton publications

New Statistical Bulletin No. 99 from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics is "Statistics on Cotton and Related Data." New Agriculture Information Bulletin No. 39, from Cotton Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, is "The Grading of Cottonseed." Procure as you do other printed publications; the editor of *USDA* has no supply.

Fall meeting in Wisconsin

Leaders in agricultural policy from 50 nations will meet this fall at the University of Wisconsin to make concrete plans for improving land tenure, ownership, operation, and the inheritance of agricultural resources throughout the free world. Representatives of Economic Cooperation Administration, the U. S. State Department's Point IV Administration, and USDA will be among those present. About 70 experts, many of them representing educational or research institutions, will attend; others will represent governmental agencies and similar groups dealing with land problems, including U. S. land-tenure experts.

Grapes and strawberries

Under Secretary McCormick talks fascinatingly about his recent trip to Europe. He is very observant, has a good news sense, and knows how to talk interestingly. We especially remember his observations on intensive grape culture in Belgium, where a grower may have 60 acres of glass houses, each filled with grapes, and he knows not only how many vines, but how many bunches of grapes are in each. He produces grapes on a 13-month basis, a new crop is always maturing. He prunes not only bunches but individual grapes—and a grape that is touched by the human hand loses its luster, is pruned with what look like manicure scissors, and discarded. Also the intensive marketing of huge strawberries, 12 of identical shape, size, and color are packed in cotton in a wooden box selling at approximately 12 cents per berry!

Homer M. Wells, retired

Homer M. Wells, who has been with USDA water-use and conservation activities since 1936, has retired as Chief, Water Conservation Division, Soil Conservation Service, a position he has held since 1944. A native of Texas, educated at Baylor University in Waco, he will now make his home at Mineral Wells, Tex., doing consulting work in connection with water and land problems of the U. S. and other countries. He started his career with the Bureau of Reclamation in Texas, in 1915, was assigned to irrigation work in Haiti in 1925, and returned to the U. S. in 1936 to join the USDA group working on water problems. He served as hydraulic engineer with Resettlement Administration, Farm Security Administration, and Bureau of Agricultural Economics, then as water-utilization specialist with the Food Production Administration until he joined SCS.

Japanese lawn grass seed

Superior strains of Japanese lawn grass (*Zoysia japonica*) can be so managed as to produce more than 500 pounds of seed per acre. So report our scientists who have been working with the U. S. Golf Association Greens Section. If you want more details, write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1708.

Proved-sire list

The 1951 Dairy Herd Improvement Association's list of proved sires is now available from the Bureau of Dairy Industry, USDA. If you want to maintain a complete record of all sires proved in dairy-herd improvement associations, write the Bureau and ask to be put on the mailing list to receive the DHIA letter.

James N. Diehl promoted

James N. Diehl, who for the past 4 years has served Forest Service in all State and private forestry work in 10 States, with headquarters at Milwaukee, has been named Chief of the Division of Cooperative Forest Protection. A native of Pennsylvania who took his degree in forestry from Penn State, Mr. Diehl has had widely diversified experience in many parts of the Nation, and is thus well prepared to head FS participation in the State-Federal cooperative program to protect State and privately owned forests against fire.

Peanuts for India

Dr. P. K. Vijayaraghavan, a biochemist from the Nutrition Research Laboratory in India, who is now doing special protein research at the University of California, says that, if India's 400 million people can be taught to eat peanuts, many of the diseases which plague that country would be wiped out. He says that the Indians are starved for proteins of high nutritional value because traditionel cattle veneration and age-old customs have tended to make them vegetarians. He holds that India's protein starvation causes many of the diseases that afflict her teeming millions.

Mr. Stambaugh is back

John H. Stambaugh, farmer and businessman, who was deputy director of the Office of Materials and Facilities during World War II, has become an assistant to the Secretary for special work in connection with agricultural defense requirments. A native of Illinois, he owns and operates a large farm in Porter County, Ind., specializing in dairy cattle, grasslands farming, and research in canning whole milk. He also heads a farm-equipment business in Valparaiso, Ind., and a Chicago organization that does research on milk processing and field engineering in dairy plants for canned whole milk.

Quality of scientific papers

Writing to "Science" (July 6 issue) N. W. Pirie of Rothamsted Experimental Station in England, deplores the fact that the editors of scientific periodicals so often build up papers by removing their worst features before publication. It is impossible to judge the competence of the author in so heavily edited a paper. For the reader does not know how he wrote originally or what internal inconsistencies there were in his draft, as the style has become that of the editor or referees. Pirie contends that the fact should be made known if any paper is subjected to significant editorial improvement before publication so that the reader may accurately evaluate the author.

Dr. Renne to Philippines

Dr. Roland R. Renne, president of Montana State College since 1944, has been appointed chief of the Economic Cooperation Administration's special technical and economic mission to the Philippines.

Termite expert

Dr. Thomas E. Snyder, internationally known authority on termites, who entered the Bureau of Entomology in 1909, has retired after 42 years of service. In 1909 little was known about the biology, habits, and control of termites, or the number of species causing damage here and elsewhere. Dr. Snyder soon realized, however, that termites and powder post beetles were among the most destructive wood-attacking insects and, by 1913, he was advising the application of creosote to wood as a preservative. He later conducted many experiments on termite control in Panama, Hawaii, Louisiana, and the West Indies, on the theory that control methods which proved effective in the Tropics would be equally effective in continental U. S. Dr. Snyder originally described no fewer than 150 species of termites and published more than 200 scientific and popular articles on insects that attack wood, including his "Catalog of the Termites (Isoptera) of the World," issued in 1949 by the Smithsonian.

Chaos by choice?

"Some of the principles which we are about to discuss call for action which seems to be contrary to human nature. As a whole these principles call for conscious, continuous, and well-organized management and supervisory processes. It is not human nature to be orderly and well organized. Human instincts, have to be curbed, human attitudes changed, and human beings inspired in order to bring about orderly and systematic activities on the part of human beings. Furthermore, it is not particularly dramatic to live in a well-organized and orderly fashion. It seems that human beings by nature would rather find themselves in emergencies and then rise to the challenge of those emergencies than carry on their activities in such a way that the possibility of emergencies is reduced. There is much more drama in becoming the hero of an emergency than there is in carrying on our activities in such an orderly fashion that there is no emergency." Excerpt from a talk on Basic Administrative Practice, by Lawrence A. Appley, now president of the American Management Association.

Point IV emissaries

Talmage E. Duncan, since 1947 agricultural engineer at the Georgia Experiment Station at Griffin, has gone to a post in Brazil where he will serve as adviser and trainer of instructors in farm mechanics at the National Training Center, Fazenda, Ipanema, Sao Paulo. A native of Mississippi, he took his B. S. at Mississippi State, his graduate work at Iowa State and University of Alabama, and has had years of experience as an instructor in his specialty. Dr. Ralph B. Swain, who joined the staff of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine in 1938, has taken an assignment in Managua to assist the government of Nicaragua control insects affecting its food and fiber crops. A native of Illinois, Dr. Swain took his B. S. at Iowa State and his M. S. (both in entomology) at Colorado A. & M.; he took his Ph. D. in zoology from the University of Colorado. Murl McDonald, associate director of extension for Iowa, has gone on an assignment to assist the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture in agricultural extension. A native of Nebraska, he has spent most of his life in Iowa, graduated from Iowa State, and has been in extension work since 1907. He will be stationed at Beirut.

Television Report II

Section II, Visual Aids, of the Television Report on the research project under Title II, Research and Marketing Act, prepared by Maynard A. Speece, Alice F. Skelsi, and Kenneth M. Gapen, is ready for distribution from Radio and Television Service, Office of Information, USDA.

"Food and World Tensions"

There is a great deal of substance in a talk by this title by Director Stanley Andrews of Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, delivered recently before the American Home Economics Association. It covers the world food situation in the informative and fascinating way in which Mr. Andrews handles all such assignments. To get copies *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1552.

Safflower cattle feed

W. W. Heinemman, an animal husbandman at the Washington Agricultural Experiment Station, has been experimenting with safflower meal—what's left after the oil has been expressed—as a beef cattle ration. High in protein, it works out well, producing gains as great as those made on pea or cottonseed meal supplements, but since it includes hulls, it is less platable and must be mixed with the animals' feed, not merely placed on top the ration as usual.

Hymenoptera

Agriculture Monograph No. 2 is a formidable book of 1,420 pages on the "Hymenoptera of America North of Mexico," a synoptic catalogue prepared by a group of specialists under direction of C. F. W. Muesebeck and Karl V. Krombein of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, and Henry K. Townes of the North Carolina State College. This, the first catalogue of its type since that by Cresson in 1887, is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents at $4 a copy.

New publications

"The Use of Fruits by Chicago Bakers," a report of a Research and Marketing Act project carried on by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, has been issued as Agriculture Information Bulletin No. 42. * * * "The Use of Recording and Transcribing Equipment in Loading Delivery Trucks of Produce Wholesalers," by Marvin Kercho, Joseph F. Herrick, Jr., and Stanley W. Burt, a report of a Research and Marketing Act study, has been issued from Production and Marketing Administration as Agriculture Information Bulletin No. 43. * * * New Circular No. 868 is "Hay Harvesting Methods and Costs," by Robert E. Marx and James W. Birkhead of BAE. Procure these as you do other printed publications, or from the agencies mentioned; the editor of *USDA* has no supply.

Haeussler's new job

Gilbert J. Haeussler, since August 1944 leader of the Division of Insect Survey and Information, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, has been appointed to succeed the late William H. White as leader of the Bureau's Division of Truck Crop and Garden Insect Investigations. Mr. Haeussler is a native of Massachusetts and entered the then Bureau of Entomology in 1925, after graduating from Massachusetts Agricultural College. From 1929 until 1934 he journeyed through France, Italy, and Japan, searching for and shipping back here parasites to attack the oriental fruit moth, an important pest of peaches. He was stationed at EPQ's Moorestown, N. J., laboratory, still working on this pest until 1940, when he became leader of the then new Comstock mealybug-control project and, a year later, was appointed assistant leader of the Division of Fruit Insect Investigations.

Mary Whitaker retired

Mary V. Whitaker, Office of Budget and Finance, has retired after more than 32 years of service beginning in the War Department, from which she transferred to old Bureau of Plant Industry in 1922, entering B & F in 1943.

Farm labor

Public Law 78, Eighty-second Congress, which, through agreement with the Republic of Mexico, authorizes the Secretary of Labor to recruit Mexican farm workers, establish and operate reception centers for them here, and provide transportation to the centers, was signed by the President July 12.

"The New Nation"

You may often have wondered what this country was like during the period from 1781–89. The first good account we have seen bears the above title. It is a history of the United States during the Confederation, by Merrill Jensen of the University of Wisconsin, published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York City, at $5 a copy. If you are like the editor, it will tell you many things about this period of our history that you never knew before. One chapter is devoted to American agriculture during that period.

Hubbell goes to Peru

USDA agronomist Donald S. Hubbell, a native of New Mexico who took his B. S. at Oklahoma A & M, and his M. S. and his Ph. D. at Iowa State, has joined two other specialists of Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations at the jointly operated agricultural station at Tingo Maria, Peru, where Peru and the U.S. have been collaborating on research since 1942. Dr. Hubbell has been with Soil Conservation Service since 1934 and, since 1944, has been in charge of SCS research in New Mexico. He headed a soil conservation mission to Venezuela about 10 years ago.

Ross retires from SCS

Robert M. Ross, Chief of the Nursery Division, Soil Conservation Service, has retired to his Maine farm after service with the agency since it was established, first as regional forester, then as assistant regional conservator, stationed at Spartanburg, S. C. He was called to Washington in 1944 and assumed his present position 4 years later. A native of Rhode Island and a graduate of the Biltmore Forest School, he was State forester for Vermont from 1923 until 1929, and has had wide experience in nursery and forestry work in both the eastern and the western States, as well as in Canada, Puerto Rico, and Santo Domingo.

Giff Hoag's progress

W. Gifford Hoag has been named Director of Information and Extension, Farm Credit Administration. As such he heads the information program provided in the original Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916 and the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1923. Giff came to FCA in 1934 when the big farm-mortgage refinancing program and organization of the production credit associations were both under way, and has been immersed in the problems of cooperatives and credit ever since. He has handled practically every job in his division including writing radio scripts, making movies, taking pictures, preparing and editing publications, and editing the "News For Farmer Cooperatives," as well as the regular run-of-the-mill activities such as press releases, annual reports, and you name it.

"The Story of Research"

There you have the title of an illustrated pamphlet which you may get free by writing to E. I. Du Pont de Nemours & Co., Wilmington, Del., and which may give you some ideas on the presentation of research in reports or in documents presenting the history and achievements of research institutions.

BPI is 50

The Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering was founded as the Bureau of Plant Industry in 1901, during the administration of President McKinley, by drawing together several units already engaged in plant research. The July 1951 issue of "BPISAE Research Activities," a processed publication prepared by Marguerite Gilstrap and issued to the staff for administrative use only, reviews the history of the agency since its organization as a bureau. Entitled "50 Years of Plant Science," is a remarkable historical job, a fine document to file for reference, and winds up with a definitive review of the agency's present status and more recent accomplishments. To get a copy *write* the editor of *USDA* and request by title.

Laake to Costa Rica

Dr. Ernest W. Laake, who joined the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine in 1913 and has had 38 years' experience in the control of insects affecting men and animals, has gone to assist the Government of Costa Rica in this field under the Point IV Program. He is the third specialist sent to this country on a technical mission by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations since 1947. A native of Texas and a graduate of Texas A & M, who took further work at Southern Methodist and Baylor Universities, and his doctorate in entomology and zoology from Iowa State, Dr. Laake conducted research control projects in areas around Dallas until 1947, since which time he has directed field and laboratory investigations to control parasites affecting poultry and dairy and beef cattle for EPQ at Kerrville, Tex.

New in REA

William C. Wise, assistant administrator of Rural Electrification Administration, has been moved up to Deputy Administrator to replace the late George W. Haggard. A native of Pennsylvania, he joined REA in 1935 as an attorney and became assistant administrator November 1, 1949. S. Riggs Shepperd, a native of Texas who graduated from Hardin-Simmons University at Abilene, and did graduate work at Texas Technological College, has been appointed assistant administrator. He first interested himself in the REA program in 1938, when he helped organize the Cap Rock Electric Cooperative, Stanton, Tex., and, since 1941, he has been manager of the Taylor Electric Cooperative, Merkel, Tex. From 1932 until 1939 Mr. Shepperd was superintendent of schools for Martin County, Tex.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1951

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR AUGUST 29, 1951

For superior work

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment and Certificates of Merit were recently awarded employees, as indicated below:

Agricultural Research Center—JOHN T. AHAESY, personnel assistant, Beltsville, Md.; JERRY MOORE, head messenger, Beltsville, Md.

Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry—JAMES W. MEEKS, scientific aid, Salinas, Calif.

Forest Service—HOMER F. CRAMER, general supply clerk, Del Rosa, Calif.; OWEN M. DESPAIN, forester, administrative (district forest ranger), Uinta National Forest, Utah; R. CLIFTON DUBOIS, laboratory general mechanic, Madison, Wis.; CLARE A. HARTNETT, airplane pilot, Ogden, Utah; LAWRENCE H. JOHN, fire-control aid (general), Porterville, Calif.; STEWART S. JOHNSON, fire control aid (smoke jumper foreman), McCall, Idaho; GEORGE E. KREIZENBECK, civil engineer, Boise, Idaho; JAMES H. O'MEARA, janitor, Northfork, Calif.; ARLO B. SEEGMILLER, regional accountant, Ogden, Utah; JOHN E. SMITH, construction and maintenance supervisor (equipment operations), Denver, Colo.; ROSS L. STUMP, administrative officer, Philadelphia, Pa.; ALBERT W. SUMP, forester (timber management), Milwaukee, Wis.

Soil Conservation Service—HAROLD R. BAKER, administrative assistant, Temple, Tex.; LUCINDA T. BARBEAU, fiscal accountant, Fort Worth, Tex.; CHESTER F. BELLARD, soil conservationist (operations), Crowley, La.; HARRY M. CHAMBERS, soil conservationist (operations), Oklahoma City, Okla.; ALVAN M. CLEMENTS, soil conservationist (operations), Medford, Okla.; ASHTON R. CODD, hydraulic engineer, Bozeman, Mont.; JAMES J. COYLE, agricultural engineer (conservation), Fort Worth, Tex.; JOHN L. CROSE, engineering aid (general), San Fernando, Calif.; EUNICE M. FONTENOT, clerk-stenographer, Alexandria, La.; BENJAMIN N. HORNE, soil conservionst (operations), Wynn, Ark.; ETHEL P. LINTNER, clerk-stenographer, Fort Worth, Tex.; RICHARD M. MARSHALL, supervisory soil scientist (land classification survey), Fort Worth, Tex.; HOWARD O. MATSON, soil conservationist (staff), Fort Worth, Tex.; GEORGE M. MORRIS, soil conservationist (staff), Fort Worth, Tex.; WALTON M. NIXON, management agronomist (land management), Fort Worth, Tex.; HENRY N. SMITH, soil conservationist (staff), Fort Worth, Tex.; THOMAS E. UTTERBACK, soil conservationist (operations), Capitan, N. Mex.; BODIE E. WILSON, soil conservationist (operations), El Reno, Okla.

Dairy statistics

New processed Statistical Bulletin No. 100 is "Dairy Statistics and Related Series," and was prepared in and issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

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Scientific research

ADDRESSING the British Society of Chemical Industry recently, Prof. H. R. Kruyt, president of the International Union of Pure and Allied Chemistry, had some interesting things to say regarding research. He emphasized that applied science is just as profound as, and in no way inferior to, so-called pure science. It uses the same intellectual method, but applies this in a deliberately chosen direction. Hence, in lieu of the old distinction between pure and applied research, he would suggest nondirected and directed research, the nondirected study being the one intended to widen our understanding as a basis for further scientific activity. But, said he, fundamental research is quite possible in both the directed and the nondirected fields.

Fundamental work in the directed field may be aimed toward the wrong objectives. The best returns may actually come, as many American industrial concerns have found, from those whose work has most widely diverged from the planned program, and those who have followed leads wherever nature and their own intellectual curiosity uncovered them. The more rightful sphere of planning and organization is in the field of technology. Certain parts of all research are tedious, routine, monotonous, and here also there must be hewers of wood and drawers of water. But rigid planning and organization are all but useless in fundamental research which, by its very nature, must be undirected, and prepared to go wherever it seems necessary. Such research is the product of the individual, a matter of imagination and intuition, and few if any administrators, and certainly no abstract organizations as such can produce it.

Elizabethan agriculture

The England of Elizabeth, a new Macmillan book by A. L. Rowse, priced at $6.50, contains an excellent chapter on agriculture in Elizabethan times.

Community canning gains

THE COMMUNITY canning centers, which operate under supervision of vocational instructors of the State departments of education, are busier this season than for years. USDA specialists cooperate by offering technical advice on canning methods, suitable equipment, efficient floor plans and installations, and other useful information, and they help train those who operate the centers. The centers are used to preserve foods for school lunches and also by families for putting up home food supplies—for instance, as many as 650 families did their own canning in one Kentucky center last year. Prospects are that the centers will turn out even more canned food than last year when their total output topped their World War II peak production.

Last year about 1,600 school-community centers, equipped with steam-pressure retorts, operated in 34 States, mostly in the South, their capacity ranging from 800 to 3,500 pint or quart containers of food daily. This year many of them are arranged and equipped to do a bigger job, because so many have pea and bean shellers, corn cutters, apple parers, juicers and pulpers, and other labor-saving equipment. Many are also equipped to can in glass. Civil defense committees are interested in the centers as a means of building up food stocks for emergencies, while school kitchens and small institutions can supplement the centers for the temporary or emergency preservation of fruits and acid vegetables that can be processed in a boiling water bath.

Because much canning will be done in glass this year, "Canning in Glass Jars in School and Institutional Kitchens," by Mrs. Bertha F. Olsen, Production and Marketing Administration, should come in especially handy. This handbook gives step-by-step instructions and ideas for adapting school-kitchen or small-institution equipment to water-bath canning. The publication is for sale from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, 25, D. C., for 20 cents in coin.

New Info deputies

M. L. DUMARS and James H. McCormick have been appointed Deputy Directors of the Office of Information, under Director R. L. Webster. "Duke" comes back to Information after several years in the Office of the Secretary, while Jim has moved up from his former position as Assistant Director. Both the

new deputies have a long background of Government service.

"Duke" came from Kansas, is a graduate of Kansas State, served as a reporter in Manhattan (Kansas, of course) and assistant extension editor (also in Kansas), and came to Washington in 1936 as an AAA radio specialist. He was later program supervisor in Radio Service, Information, then head of Information's Division of Special Reports, leaving to join the Secretary. McCormick's educational background includes Campion, a small college in Wisconsin, University of Illinois, and postgraduate work at Georgetown. "Jim" has been in Government since 1927, starting with Interior, moving to Commerce, and transferring to Agriculture in 1933. From 1933 to 1943, he served in AAA's Division of Information and in the Administrator's Office. Then he transferred to the Office of Information as Executive Assistant to the Director, becoming Assistant Director in 1946. Seems to the editor two mighty fine choices were made here.

Brief but important

"Antibiotic Growth Stimulants"

The above is the title of a concise review of the subject by H. R. Bird of the Bureau of Animal Industry on page 3 of Science for July 20.

Costs

You have often seen figures showing how much it costs the Government to order even a very small item, and no doubt adverse criticism accompanied the figures. The Harvard Business School reports that it costs a large department store $1.29½ to handle an average sale, regardless of whether that be a spool of thread or a mink coat. Some such costs are inevitable in any large institution.

Sybil Smith honored

Miss Sybil L. Smith, long on the staff of Office of Experiment Stations in the subject-matter field of food and nutrition, received an honorary doctor of science degree from the University of Massachusetts recently. She was especially cited as the author of bulletins on vitamins and as the one who supervised the establishment of the nutrition research program at University of Massachusetts. Miss Smith is, appropriately enough, a graduate of Smith.

It was short

On November 19, 1863, the Soldiers National Cemetery on the site of the battle of Gettysburg was dedicated. The chosen orator was Edward Everett, a distinguished public figure regarded as the best speaker in the Nation. But it was suggested that President Lincoln also deliver "a few appropriate remarks." Everett's speech was widely circulated to the press before delivery. Lincoln composed the first page of his speech in Washington, writing it out on Executive Mansion stationery; he probably wrote the final page on foolscap in Gettysburg. (It is a myth that he wrote the speech on the train, using the back of an old letter.) Everett's speech lasted 2 hours, and has been wholly forgotten. Lincoln's was short. You know the rest. Take heed.

Book club selection

The summer selection of the Farmer's Book Club, 23 East Twenty-sixth Street, New York City 10, is The Pasture Book, by W. R. Thompson, Mississippi State College. This is a new, revised, and greatly enlarged edition of the pasture bible and it is priced at $3.50.

Mrs. Runkle retired

Mrs. Edith P. Runkle, who rose from "clerk-typewriter" to administrative assistant, Office of Information Services, Production and Marketing Administration, has retired after service in USDA since September 1922. Mrs. Runkle, who entered Government in 1918, served also in the Bureau of War Risk Insurance, the War Department, Veterans' Administration, and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Agriculture in Britain

The May 1951 issue of "Agriculture, the Journal of the (British) Ministry of Agriculture" (available in our Library) is a Festival of Britain number and is devoted to a discussion of the evolution of farming in Britain, farm progress there, farming today in Britain and Wales, a hundred years of soil research, revolution in grass, the march of veterinary science, plant breeding, mechanization on the farm, and a discussion of some books on British agriculture.

Management note

The E. I. du Pont de Nemours Co. uses "HOBSO" (How Our Business System Operates) to acquaint personnel with the advantages of the free enterprise system and the roles therein of capital, labor, and management. Things go very well when simple economic ideas are presented to small groups visually, if at all possible, the discussion leader being kept in the background and giving only minimum help when needed. It seems the same idea might be useful to acquaint Government employees with the functions and responsibilities of modern government and the roles therein of taxation, personnel, management, and the public.

Dice promoted in PMA

George A. Dice, a native of Pennsylvania and a graduate of Bethany College in West Virginia, who did graduate work at University of Pittsburgh, has been named deputy assistant administrator for marketing in Production and Marketing Administration. He fills the position formerly held by Roy W. Lennartson and has previously been serving as deputy director of the Sugar Branch. He joined AAA in 1933, transferring to the then sugar agency in 1938. Later he became director of the Sugar Branch, then associate director of the Food Rationing Division, Office of Price Administration, returning to PMA in 1947.

Aerial maps

L. E. Newman of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine writes from Concord, N. H., that his Bureau uses aerial maps primarily to record the location and extent of valuable white pine stands and to determine boundaries of zones for protection against blister rust. But these forest-type maps also show drainages, stone walls, fences, woods, roads, power lines, trails, and buildings, wild ribes (currant and gooseberry bushes) which spread the rust to white pine, often being associated with them. Enlargements of these maps cost about 6 cents per acre and many New Hampshire towns also use them as a basis for producing town-property maps, several departments of the State government find them useful in various land use studies, and farmers and other property owners use them to plan and carry out improvement projects.

FEDERAL CREED OF SERVICE

We as members of the civil service accept our obligation and our opportunity to serve the American people well and in full measure doing our best to further the free and democratic institutions of our country. We believe it is our duty to: Carry out loyally the will of the people as expressed in our laws; serve the public with fairness, courtesy, integrity, and understanding; help improve the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of our work . . . and thus do our part in performing the great services of the Government. (Recently adopted by the Federal Personnel Council.)

Utah extension editor

Neil K. Holbrook has succeeded Lyman Duncan as extension editor in Utah. Holbrook is a graduate of Utah State and has been free-lancing for several agricultural publications. He reports Prof. Bill Ward of New York (Cornell) doing a fine teaching job out thataway. Duncan is starting his own weekly newspaper.

Friendly fungus

Ralph M. Lindgren of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering reports a surprisingly protective effect after spraying peeled southern pine wood with ammonium and sodium fluoride solutions which apparently stimulate the growth of a relatively harmless friendly mold. This antibiotic fungus prevents establishment of the decay fungi, makes the wood more permeable to oil and water solutions, and thus aids in preserving stored fence posts, pulpwood, and so on.

Broilers fly south

Costa Rica is starting a commercial broiler enterprise adopting methods used in the U. S. broiler industry. Incubator-hatched chicks are to be reared to market age, plucked and cleaned by machinery, quick-frozen, and marketed in sealed plastic packages. The broilers will be marketed in Costa Rica and the Panama Canal Zone. Refrigerated transport has done much to popularize the broiler in South America, but exporting newly hatched chicks from U.S. poultry breeding stock for the home production of broilers near Latin American markets is an innovation.

Farm efficiency

A study made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics shows that a tremendous shift took place from small to larger family farms during the war. The larger farms are now producing much nearer to total capacity than the small ones; they use more advanced technology and are more evenly balanced in production, hence present fewer opportunities for increased efficiency. The larger family farms more quickly take advantage of production gains from newer methods and mechanization, and these present amazing opportunities for increased production on family farms. Production levels are lower on small and medium-sized family farms, and greater gains are possible here. Larger family farms can increase production by making the most efficient use of the family working as an up-to-date productive unit and using the most modern methods and mechanical aids. Beyond this, problems of hired farm labor arise. It seems quite probable that U. S. agriculture can expand output to meet almost any national emergency, if family farms take full advantage of modern technology.

Bill Rowe returns

Bill Rowe of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation has returned after a 4-month tour of duty in Japan studying the crop insurance system there, and helping it solve its problems. It was organized in 1939, the same year as the U. S. program.

Soil conservation report

We are indebted to Cornelia K. Pfeiffer, executive secretary of the Van Buren Soil Conservation District, Paw Paw, Mich., for the annual report of the District for 1950, a printed illustrated job on glossy paper. She says that 7,000 copies were distributed this year and that similar printed reports have been issued since 1945.

Elm epidemic

Dutch elm disease is reaching epidemic proportions in Washington, D. C., and only the other day the editor noted huge old elms that had had to be hacked down on the Monument Grounds. What some citizens thought was thinning out the trees was a radical measure adopted to try and protect the many fine old elms this city has long boasted.

"The Peanut—the Unpredictable Legume"

Above is the title of a new, copiously illustrated 333-page book just published by the National Fertilizer Association, Washington, D. C., at $4 per copy. Sponsored by NFA's Plant Food Research Committee, the volume, for the first time, summarizes the mass of available information on the planting, cultivation, fertilization, harvesting, and storage of the crop. The eight chapters have been prepared by leading agricultural college authorities.

Hooks heads Welfare

Lance G. Hooks, Office of Information Services, Production and Marketing Administration, has been elected president of the USDA Welfare Association, succeeding George Younkin of Soil Conservation Service. Nathan Koenig of the Office of the Secretary, is the Association's new information director. Hooks is a native of Arkansas who attended Washington University in St. Louis, then Northwestern and University of Chicago. He joined USDA in 1925. The Welfare Association was organized in 1923, and it now operates cafeterias and snack bars in USDA buildings in Washington and Beltsville; sponsors educational, dramatic, musical, recreational, and other programs and activities for employees; and grants financial and other forms of aid to employees in meritorious cases.

Kunkel retired

Charles F. Kunkel, deputy director, Fruit and Vegetable Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, has retired after 31 years of service, 18 of them with USDA, beginning in 1933 when he entered AAA. A native of Pennsylvania, he entered Treasury in 1915 as a $900-a-year stenographer, then after service in World War I, was in the Bureau of War Risk Insurance and in private business, later taking his bachelor's degree in foreign service at Georgetown while in the Public Health Service. Thereafter he was employed by the Department of State in foreign assignments, the Department of Commerce as a commodity specialist in New Zealand and India, AAA, Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation as a marketing specialist, Surplus Marketing Administration working with the Food Stamp Plan and the School Lunch Program, the Food Distribution Administration, and, since 1945, in the position from which he retired. He was distinguished for his work in the field of procurement, price support, commodity programs, and on the simplification of Government procedures.

It's reached England

A British physician recently chided his milkman about the deterioration in quality of the fluid delivered. Was it a shortage of new grass? Replied ye milkman: "Well, it may be that, but to my mind it's because people get too much of this consecrated milk now."

Consider the slimming tomato

Our nutritionists calculate that a medium-sized tomato will supply nearly half the vitamin C we require daily, as well as a third of the vitamin A, along with only 1 percent of our caloric requirements! This fact makes the tomato a natural in reducing diets, with much protective vitamin value thrown in—for some niacin and thiamine, as well as some iron, are included. Since the body cannot store vitamin C, we need foods containing it every day.

He's a character

So your boss is eccentric? He's a character? So are you, insofar as you are intelligent and do your own thinking. So is everyone who is not simply a carbon copy of the common run, and there are no carbon copies. Each one of us is unique just as each leaf on a tree is unique. We are all odd, unusual, eccentric. We are all characters. But it is possible for us to understand one another and to work together amicably even if we are characters. It just takes a little affability, tolerance, compassion, and intelligence.

"Secretarial Training Guide"

This new supervisory manual issued by the Office of Personnel is intended to increase the efficiency and skills of stenographers, typists, and general clerical employees. It was prepared by Eunice Bone of Farmers Home Administration, Florence Hamilton of Soil Conservation Service, W. Nelson Monies of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, and Charline Lynch of Pers. It is designed primarily to meet field office needs for the instruction of new clerical employees. Copies may be obtained from your own bureau or agency personnel or training officers.

To Liberia

Dr. Frank G. Davis, economist, and Carl C. Blickenstaff, entomologist on the USDA staff have gone to Liberia on Point IV assignments. Dr. Davis is a native of South Carolina who took his B. A. at Howard University, his M. A. at Ohio State University, and his Ph. D. in economics at University of Iowa; he taught in land-grant colleges and was an economist with the Office of the Army Quartermaster General before coming to USDA. Mr. Blickenstaff is a native of Indiana who took his B. S. at Purdue and his M. S. at Iowa State, and joined Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine after teaching at the latter institution for some years.

Using the Library

Even today too few persons know how to use a library and the valuable things it can do for them. Sarah W. Parker, librarian of the USDA Philadelphia Branch Library has just sent us a helpful booklet entitled "You . . . and Your Library," which was prepared in the Philadelphia Branch, was edited and multilithed by the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Forest Service, and has been distributed to all employees this Branch serves, those in the Northeast area from Maine through West Virginia. Special research centers, of course, are served by the Wyndmoor and the Beltsville Branches. The booklet is excellent; the librarians who prepared it proved to be good information people. Distributed with it was a processed list of periodicals currently received by the Philadelphia Branch. The two items will enlighten many about skilled use of library facilities.

New Egyptian cotton standards

If interested in the new standards for American Egyptian cotton, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1857.

Flameproof cotton fabrics

An extensive program of chemical research to develop better flameproof cotton fabrics without imparting undesirable properties to them is being undertaken for the Army Quartermaster Corps by USDA's Southern Regional Research Laboratory in New Orleans. Great strides have been made in recent years in the development of flameproofing techniques, but there is still real need for treatments that remain effective after the fabric is laundered, but which do not weaken the material, nor cause stiffness, stickiness, increased weight, or other objectionable changes. If you want more details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1793.

FS ski expert

John Herbert, assistant chief of the Forest Service's Division of Recreation and Lands, has been selected by the Olympic Ski Committee to manage the Olympic ski teams at the races to be held in Oslo, Norway, beginning February 14, 1952. He will fly to Zurich early next January with members of the downhill and slalom men's and women's teams who will participate in several European races prior to the Olympic games. He will be on leave of absence from FS during this assignment. After the Olympic games, he will spend 2 or 3 weeks in an official capacity at the Swiss Avalanche Institute at Davos.

ACE meeting

The Association of Agricultural College Editors met at Urbana, Ill., this year, with Hadley Read as host editor and a record attendance of 190 from 41 States, the District of Columbia, Canada, and 4 European countries. Accent of the meeting was no professional improvement. George Church of Oklahoma was elected president, Allan Smith of Kentucky, vice president, and Harold Swanson of Minnesota, secretary-treasurer. The Reuben Brigham Memorial Award for distinguished editorial service in the field of agriculture went to Walter Durham of the Memphis Commercial Appeal. Tribute was paid former University of Illinois editor B. E. Powell who, on June 14, 1913, issued the call for an informal meeting of six persons which resulted in the organization of the ACE. Program chairman was Earl Richardson of Michigan and the retiring president was Marjorie Arbour of Louisiana.

Pace report in India

Here is an interesting little item that illustrates how our research stories get around. It came via Dr. P. V. Cardon, Administrator of Agricultural Research Administration. Dean Burr, formerly of the University of Nebraska, was in Pakistan recently and was asked at the last moment to give a talk on American agriculture. Being several thousand miles away from the facts and figures carefully filed in Lincoln, he had to think hard and fast as to how he would present such a broad and fascinating subject. Some one in the American Embassy handed him a little pamphlet with the comment that this might help him. He gave it a look-over and was delighted. It was the whole story in a nutshell. On his return, Dean Burr thanked Dr. Cardon for providing his speech for him. Want to know what the pamphlet was? Part I of the Pace Report, "Research and Related Services of the U. S. Department of Agriculture." Reprints of Part I are available, while they last, from the author, E. G. Moore, ARA.

TV in teaching sewing

You might be interested in a study carried on by four USDA research groups cooperating with the Radio Corporation of America and the National Broadcasting Co., on the effectiveness of televised demonstrations of good sewing practices. If so, single copies of Extension Service Circular No. 466 may be obtained by writing the Extension Service, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

Our error—

And it's a lulu, of course. In the July 4 issue we said "Printers' Ink" of June 2 published an interesting article on how the Mutual Life Insurance Co. solved the coffee-break problem. Actually it was "Business Week" for June 2 that published the article. Our apologies all around—getting senile—that's why we're not reenlisting!

New employees

A recent survey of 42 companies showed greater interest than ever in the orientation of new employees. particularly in getting them personally acquainted with the big shots and informed about the accomplishments and careers of the brass, as well as telling them about incentives, opportunities for advancement, bonuses, pensions, hospitalization, annuities, and holidays, and informing them regarding their new company's history and achievements.

Extension in Louisiana

The late Frederick W. Williamson's fine illustrated book, "Origin and Growth of Agricultural Extension in Louisiana, 1860–1948," has been published by the division of extension, Louisiana State University and A. & M. College. The author, until his death some months ago, was Louisiana's associate extension editor and a well-recognized authority on many phases of the State's history.

Trelogan promoted

Dr. Harry C. Trelogan, a native of Pennsylvania who graduated from West Virginia University and took his Ph. D. at University of Minnesota, has been appointed assistant administrator of Agricultural Research Administration. He has been serving as director of the ARA office of marketing, after being associated with marketing research under the Research and Marketing Act. He joined USDA originally in 1930 as a Japanese beetle scout and, in 1938, became an economist with Farm Credit Administration. During World War II he served in the War Food Administration and the Office for Agricultural War Relations. He will now be responsible for marketing work under the Research and Marketing Act, succeeding Dr. Omer W. Herrmann who resigned to head the agricultural work at the American Embassy in Paris.

To El Salvador and Iran

E. William Ranck, a native of Indiana with a B. S. from Purdue, who has been a Land Bank appraiser for Farm Credit Administration for many years, first in Puerto Rico, and since 1949 in Baltimore, has gone to El Salvador to serve as economic adviser to its government in its program of agricultural development, where he will join seven other Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Point IV technicians at the jointly operated agricultural station. Dr. George Stewart, for 20 years a range and forestry expert of Forest Service, and a native of Utah educated at Utah State, Cornell, and University of Minnesota, has gone to Iran on a Point IV assignment. Francis A. Ralston, an animal husbandman with 14 years' experience in extension work in Montana, who is a native of that State and a graduate of Montana State College, has also gone to Iran on a Point IV assignment.

Purchasing co-ops

Miscellaneous Report 150, "Handbook on Major Regional Farm Supply Purchasing Cooperatives, 1949 and 1950," by Martin A. Abrahamsen and Jane L. Scearce, is available from Division of Information and Extension, Farm Credit Administration.

Record pulpwood sale

The largest sale of National Forest timber ever made was completed recently when a contract for 1.5 billion cubic feet of Alaskan pulp timber was awarded the Ketchikan Pulp & Paper Co., Bellingham, Wash. For details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1832.

Apple-juice concentrate

Frozen apple-juice concentrate, developed by the USDA in cooperation with the Washington State Apple Commission, has proved popular with consumers in two western cities, according to a survey made recently. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1825.

Cotton research

An address delivered late in July before the Cotton Research Congress, College Station, Tex., by Assistant Secretary Hutchinson, was titled "Cotton Research and Mobilization." If interested in facts about cotton research and related matters, you might want a copy. If so, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 1778.

"Direct Mail Advertising"

That is the title of an article by a man who surely knows his subject, Edward N. Mayer, Jr., that appeared in Harvard Business Review for July 1951 ($1.50 per copy from Soldiers Field, Boston 63, also available from the USDA Library), and it packs a lot of information for any of you who use the mails for the spread of information.

Mr. Hochbaum retires

H. W. Hochbaum, a staff member of Extension Service since 1918, has retired as Chief of its Division of Field Coordination. He began as a county agent in Ada County, Idaho, in 1913 and, in 1914, became vice director of extension for Idaho. His pioneer and continued contribution to the development of extension work has been tremendous and is widely recognized in agricultural circles.

Toxaphene for Japenese beetle

A new processed publication by Walter E. Fleming and Warren W. Maines of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine is "Experiments with Toxaphene Against the Japanese Beetle," E-821. Preliminary tests indicate that toxaphene is of relatively little value in protecting plants from attack by the adult beetle, but may have a place in control of larvae in the soil. You can get the publication from EPQ.

"The Imported Fire Ant"

This is the title of a new leaflet (EC-17) from the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine which is printed in red and bears on the front an awe-inspiring portrait of this pest of the Southeastern States diligently engaged in mauling a hank of human hide. From the intensely hostile look on its countenance the fire ant will bear watching. It stings both men and animals, attacks various vegetable plants, makes huge mounds, and looks very much in earnest about its nefarious activities.

Crops and the weather

New Statistical Bulletin No. 101 is "Fluctuations in Crops and Weather, 1866–1943." It reports a project under the Research and Marketing Act supervised by Louis H. Bean, economist in the Office of the Secretary, and C. E. Burkhead, who heads the Division of Field Crop Statistics, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. It carries forward and amplifies M. P. 471, Crop Yields and Weather, by Louis H. Bean, published in 1942. These data are brought together to stimulate research workers in crops and markets to seek the underlying characteristics and basic interrelationships insofar as monthly and yearly data reveal them. Procure this publication from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for $1.

Sugar lab head

Dr. C. H. Wadleigh of the U. S. Salinity Laboratory, Riverside, Calif., has succeeded Dr. E. W. Brandes, retired, as head of the Division of Sugar Plant Investigations, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. A native of Massachusetts and a graduate of Massachusetts State College, Dr. Wadleigh took his M. S. at Ohio State and his doctorate in plant physiology at Rutgers. He has been at the Salinity Lab for a decade and has an outstanding record of investigation in physiology, biochemistry, and statistics. His work has dealt with the mineral nutrition and the carbohydrate and nitrogen metabolism of plants, their water relations and salt tolerance.

New editor for *USDA*

As broadly hinted several times, the editor of *USDA* is hanging up the harness with this issue. E. R. McIntyre of Press Service, Office of Informatiotn, a native of rural Wisconsin who started out as a printer's devil on the Wisconsin State Register of Portage, after finishing high school, will take over. Mac was later reporter, feature writer, and Sunday cartoonist for the Wisconsin State Journal and, in 1913, began 4 years as the first editorial assistant of Andy Hopkins, recently retired, at University of Wisconsin. He next became State editor of the Wisconsin Farmer, founded in 1849, where he remained 15 years until he joined up with Henry Wallace and Chester Davis as a dairy information writer in AAA. He returned to the Wisconsin Farmer in 1935 and continued there after it merged with the Wisconsin Agriculturist. In 1945 he reentered USDA in Inf to take over from DeWitt C. Wing his work on farm paper contacts. Mac has since continued this chore, plus additional press assignments and, from 1927 until now, has also been Jeff McDermid (obviously he lives a double life) of "Better Crops with Plant Food," making the acquaintance of fans and critics in a wide field. It's all yours, Mac.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1951

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR SEPTEMBER 12, 1951

Accent positive

HOW MANY there are in the complete list of so-called "house organs" and personnel publications is anyone's guess. "Printer's Ink" has compiled a list of 5,100 house organs after eliminating hundreds issued by clubs, fraternities, teachers' organizations, chambers of commerce, and State and Federal agencies. Meanwhile, with the wide advent of countless specialized issues devoted mainly to company relations and personnel good will, a large fund of literature and practical aids through books and services has sprung up to assist writers and editors who serve in this complex field.

In commenting on preparing periodicals for personnel readership, one of these self-styled experts states:

> The tendency is for too much shop talk and not enough human benefactions, which often kills a desire to read thoroughly * * * News in its importance to the reader classifies this way: Good news about oneself, practical self-betterment methods, and bad news about other people. Too much good news about others often creates emotional reactions contrary to what editors strive to get * * * That's why newspapers dramatize human suffering, mistakes and punishment.

Reader interest in a broad field of everyday news handling may respond somewhat to the rule thus promulgated. But it is certainly proven by years of knowing the preferences shown by USDA personnel that inspirational, hopeful, constructive, and purposeful articles and comments are wanted in these columns—not frustrations and blunders and setbacks. For this policy we surely need your help.

On the other hand, we need not become maudlin pollyannas and apple-polishers. Things will be reported as "good" and not "gorgeous," if you get the point. This is no solemn vow or dedication. It's just a plea for your tolerance, cheerful assistance, and continued good will.

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No "swann" song here

IN TACKLING a new job, it's harder to succeed when you succeed a capable man. Such is the case in following Editor T. Swann Harding. He has published 7 books—"Two Blades of Grass" being the latest—written an avalanche of articles of varied interest in some 250 magazines, and edited *USDA* since September 1943. Be it known meanwhile, that Mr. Harding has retired to do free-lance writing and editing at his new home, 4 Cookman Street, Rehoboth Beach, Del. A native of Delaware, he grew up in Maryland, and graduated from the former Maryland Agricultural College. In 1910, he joined the old Bureau of Chemistry as assistant chemist, when Dr. Harvey W. Wiley of pure food fame was chief. Here, he did research on the rare sugars, later taking them into commercial production for a Detroit pharmaceutical firm, where, from 1918 to 1922, he issued about 35 technical papers.

In 1923, he entered the Bureau of Animal Industry's Beltsville, Md., laboratory to study dairy cattle nutrition—before the Bureau of Dairy Industry was set up—and authored half a dozen publications. Soon thereafter, Mr. Harding was named Editor of Scientific Publications for USDA by Nelson Antrim Crawford, Director of Information. During Keith Himebaugh's directorship, he finally became an "information specialist" and did his *first* writing for the Department. He succeeded Archie Robertson as editor of *USDA*, the latter also being a book writer, including ones on short-line railroads and old-time religion. Mr. Harding's capacity for prolific writing, his wide knowledge, and boundless energy will be greatly missed in this corner of the "copy mill."

Latest: Mr. Harding will go to the Insular experiment station at Rio Pedras, Puerto Rico, to begin a writing job on November 1.

Arkansas travelers

THE ARKANSAS University College of Agriculture is the first of the land-grant colleges to take part in Point IV effort by direct transfer of 8 faculty members to a foreign country under agreement with governments and educational institutions abroad. They have gone to Panama to render technical assistance in agricultural development.

Other specific cooperative college agreements are signed under Point IV with Texas A & M College, University of Minnesota, New Mexico A & M College, University of North Carolina, Utah State College, University of Wisconsin, and Purdue University. However, not all these contracts call for group transfer of teaching and research forces. Meanwhile, a group of Michigan State Agricultural College workers have taken an assignment for the Army, to hold classes at Okinawa University.

The Arkansas group will work at the National Institute of Agriculture at Divisa, Panama, center of a rich farming area. Dr. R. P. Bartholomew—for 7 years associate director of the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station—will be director of the Institute. Others of the Arkansas faculty who will give practical leadership to improve Panama's agricultural programs include: L. A. Dhonau, assistant extension director; Dr. Roy W. Roberts, vocational education; Charles E. Caviness, cotton research specialist; Kermit Q. Stephenson, agricultural engineer; Mrs. Flora Friend, home economics specialist; Carl D. Coone, agriculture teacher; and W. W. Heffelfinger, administrative assistant.

Walter P. Sellers, Foreign Agricultural Relations USDA, continues as adviser to the Panama Ministry of Agriculture, and in addition, as counselor for the Arkansas "exported faculty." In terms of cash support for the project, Panama will probably put in more than the U.S. It is important, those in charge point out, that good economic and social conditions be maintained in countries upon whom we depend so much for our essential supplies of strategic goods, like tin and rubber. Citizens of Panama will be closely associated with the Institute and taught to assume full responsibilities after adequate training.

Climate defended

"The Madison climate needs no defense, despite the reports of our bitterly cold winters and bad windstorms," says the Forest Products Laboratory Employee's Association at Madison, Wis. "Our climate may not be as mild or as monotonous as found elsewhere, but we like it because it is *interesting*."

Soviet survey

AT LONG last the study which has been under way for some time in USDA's Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, concerning the status of agriculture in Soviet Russia, has been issued as Agricultural Monograph 5, for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, at 45 cents per copy. Its author, Dr. Lazar Volin, Regional Specialist in FAR, acknowledges thanks to several present and former associates in USDA for consultation, editing, proofing, and arrangement of text, tables, and maps contained in the 195-page document.

"A Survey of Soviet Russian Agriculture" is the title, and it has chapters on natural environment, agricultural policy and land tenure, collective and state farms, mechanization and the machine-tractor station systems, cropping, fertilization, research policies and personnel, the economic pattern in food and nonfood crops and livestock, as well as a discussion of the distribution and consumption of agricultural products, foreign trade and postwar reconstruction programs.

Readers are told at the outset to guard against exaggerated notions about the natural resources of Russian agriculture, which, it is said, are often depicted in colors either too optimistic or too pessimistic. It is admitted that a lack of accurate and dependable statistics is a major obstacle to anyone trying to give a clear and honest picture of true conditions and relations in Russian farming. The meagerness and fragmentary character of available statistics and other relevant data, and the frequent overestimates given of crop yields combine to strew the pathway of a meticulous "surveyor" with thorns and booby traps. In the present monograph, where vital and reliable figures were concealed or lacking, attempts have been made to supply them—at the risk, it is admitted, of increasing the margin of error.

Russia's centralized planning and control, the author states, has not only introduced better farming methods, but is responsible for some dubious, impracticable, uneconomic or even harmful practices. Although many of the scientifically doubtful methods were publicized in the USSR as spectacular and brilliant achievements, this should not obscure the fact that a genuine scientific tradition has existed in Russia with solid accomplishments to its credit—going back to the prerevolutionary period.

It is declared that the expansion of Russian agricultural research facilities and its number of scientists and farm specialists during the Soviet period has actually been impressive. Figures are given to indicate that numbers of research workers at experiment stations and institutes increased from 250 in 1913 to 9,800 in 1938, not counting those at 12,000 local testing laboratories run by the "kolkhozy" (collective farmers.) At the same time it is explained that Soviet regulations have often hindered agricultural research and stifled some branches of science by political interference and isolation from the outside world.

Dr. Volin is a native of Russia, who came to this country in 1915. He earned three degrees, including a Ph. D. degree in economics, at the University of Michigan, and joined the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in 1926. He toured parts of Russia in 1915 with Louis G. Michael, U.S. agricultural attaché, and is the author of many articles and book reviews.

That Kansas cave

THAT CAVE at Atchison, Kans., which once raised a furor of clamorous criticism because the Government stored there much of its food surplus secured under price support programs is closing its doors because it's almost empty of edibles. Most of the food products once stored there have been moved out into domestic and foreign consumption.

At its peak capacity, the cave held dried eggs, dried milk, cheese, raisins and prunes, as well as small quantities of grain, cotton, wool and canned meat. The cave was leased by the Commodity Credit Corporation from a private owner at $20,000 a year and about two million dollars were spent in fixing it up. Improvements included a concrete floor, side walls and roof coated with pressurized cement for sealing purposes, together with ramps and loading facilities and refrigerator units. It was able to hold more than 3,000 carloads of farm commodities, as well as having some space devoted to storage tests.

Authorities in USDA claim that the Kansas cave provided a lot of useful information, that it was a success in storage operations, and that it more than paid for itself during the 10 years of its use. The cave will not be released to private parties, but will be maintained officials say, on a stand-by basis as of September 1—for use if and when it again may be urgently needed.

For superior work

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment and Certificates of Merit were recently awarded employees, as indicated below:

Bureau of Agricultural Economics—J. FRANKLIN THACKREY, Information Specialist, Washington, D. C.

Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine—JAMES K. HOLLOWAY, entomologist, Albany, Calif.

Forest Service—CLAYTON F. BROWER, Civil Engineer, Chippewa National Forest, Wis.; KENNELL M. ELLIOTT, Nicolet National Forest, Rhinelander, Wis.

Production and Marketing Administration—LEIL O. BUCHANAN, Cotton Classer, Lubbock, Tex.; HAROLD D. GROSS, Administrative Officer, Chicago, Ill.; MANUEL WERBY, Traffic Management Officer, Kansas City, Mo.

Soil Conservation Service—WESLEY L. ELLIS, Cartographic Engineer, Portland, Oreg.; NUNNALLY P. STEPHENSON, Administrative Officer, Fort Worth, Tex.

Brief but important

Fruit article

The September number of National Geographic Magazine has an article by J. R. Magness, in charge of horticultural research, USDA, "How Fruits Came to America." It is illustrated with 24 color plates by Else Botelmann.

Intern program

Among the 25 young men and women chosen for the 5-month instruction course in the Junior Management program, to open September 10, two administrative assistants in the Rural Electrification Administration were accepted: Robert H. Eagle and Joseph W. Wilkinson, both residents of Washington, D. C. Selections were made by the Interdepartmental Committee on Intern Programs.

Ingram honored

Friends of Clyde Ingram, extension poultryman at Louisiana State University for 25 years, gave him a party from the poultry industry at the market poultry show in Alexandria, La. They gave a plaque commemorating his quarter century of service, a bound book of fan letters, and a good sized check to pay his expenses to the World Poultry Congress in Paris this summer.

Higher cash awards

Office of Personnel has issued a new table of higher monetary awards for efficiency and management improvement. Cash awards from $10 to $750 are listed, with as many as 3 pay-step increases allowed—depending on the employee's grade. Either the salary increase or the cash in hand may be chosen by an award winner. Agency heads are invited to review suggestion files received in Pers under various awards programs for possible adaptation to their own needs.

"Orientation"

To acquaint new USDA employees with each other and with what is done in their behalf within the Department, the Welfare Association has staged a series of luncheons, with Charles Cunningham, Employee Activities Director, as master of ceremonies. Greetings are in line from representatives of such inside groups as the Legion post, the symphony orchestra, the choristers, dramatic players and the local employee newspaper.

Point IV register

To handle the large volume of correspondence about foreign positions in Point IV programs, and to maintain the register and files of all applicants, a section has been set up in Office of Personnel, apart from the regular employment division. Through July 18, 1,400 applications had been received for such employment, with 1,175 of that number being eligible.

Corn and commerce

While Detroit and Wayne County were observing their two hundred and fiftieth anniversary and the industrial power involved, the "Free Press" had a story which showed that Wayne county raises more sweet corn than any other in the State, and boasts 44 percent of its area in farm land. County Agent P. R. Biebesheimer and staff got a good play also.

Chemical caponettes

It is now mandatory under the grading and inspection rules that any capons which show evidence of treatment with diethylstilbesterol shall be labeled as having been so treated. in accordance with this regulation issued by Poultry Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, plant managers must arrange for such identification. Failure to include this specific label may result in misbranding, says Food and Drug Administration.

Halogeton haters busy

They're "ganging up" on the range weed menace—halogeton. At Raft River Valley outdoor laboratory, the Idaho University research teams are hunting several ways to checkmate the West's worst plant pest. USDA Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management of the Interior Department, and the Idaho Halogeton and Range Weed Control unit are joining forces there. Weedmen from 6 States meeting at Boise estimated there are over 5 million acres of halogeton to be conquered.

Rome recruit

John H. Southern, on leave of absence from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, has gone to Rome, to act as technical assistance officer for the Land and Water Use Branch at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization. Southern is an agricultural economist specializing in land utilization and tenure problems. He has been with BAE most of his professional career, except for 2 years of naval service. Since April 1946 he has been with BAE at College Station, Tex., where he is also an associate member of the graduate faculty at Texas A. & M. College.

Tight German credit

Recommendations that may improve the credit service to West German farmers are expected to result from a recent series of conferences of Farm Credit Administration units afield and three agricultural credit authorities from Bonn, sponsored by the Economic Cooperation Administration. In Germany, interest rates on land loans often reach 8 or 9 percent, and on short-term loans up to 12 or 13 percent. Under terms now in vogue there, these visitors said, a real estate mortgage is a lien on the land itself, as well as the crops and equipment.

Practical background

"The USDA Club News" of Dallas, Tex., notes that C. M. Evans, Marketing Specialist with PMA Commodity Division, is president of the Texas Holstein Cattle Breeders Association, and helped lay the groundwork for the Pan-American Holstein Show at Dallas in 1952.

Placque for Brannan

A gold plate engraved placque inlaid on walnut was awarded to Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan by the Missouri Farmers Association. It reads "For distinguished service to agriculture," and was presented at Columbia, Mo., on August 6, when the Secretary spoke to the members on floods and their control.

Chemical bug killers

"Insect Control by Chemicals" by Dr. A. W. A. Brown, chief of the department of zoology, University of Western Ontario, is newly published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 440 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y. The 818-page book deals with the chemical, physical, and toxicological aspects of insecticides. It costs $12.50 per copy. The USDA Library has it.

Farm editors' meeting

The autumn meeting of American Agricultural Editors' Association was held at Washington, D. C., Sept. 10-12. The first 2 days were spent with USDA personnel, including a tour of the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md. The third day's program was slated for Baltimore, a guests of U. S. Industrial Chemicals Co.

Job shifts

Clifford Alston, extension specialist at University of Arkansas for many years, with a recent Ph. D. from Cornell, is joining American Institute of Cooperation as a consultant on Land-Grant colleges. He replaces Carlton F. Christian, who returns to his old place as marketing specialist at Ohio State University.

Harvard fellowship

R. Frank Hedges, District Conservationist at Taos, N. Mex., since 1944, has been awarded the Littauer Fellowship for a year's study at Harvard University Graduate School of Public Administration. He was chosen from among candidates recommended by the Federal agencies who administer programs for the conservation of natural resources, including the regional, State, and National Soil Conservation Service offices.

Hyperkeratosis

X-disease of cattle still remains a mystery as to its real cause, although research workers from 13 State experiment stations at a recent Ithaca, N. Y., meeting reported that it can be produced experimentally. No specific compound or mixture of feeds will consistently produce the disease—causing a wrinkling and hardening of the skin—hence the name "hyperkeratosis." Only single lots of these materials induce disease symptoms. That the single ingredients themselves are not to blame, but that some harmful agent either contaminates the product or otherwise develops the disease is the present conclusion.

Defense grievances

The Defense Order Appeals Board—to handle petitions for relief from alleged hardships arising from Defense Food Orders and for similar adjustments made under specified regulations—has been set up through issuance of Defense Food Order No. 4 by Production and Marketing Administration. The designated chairman of the Board is Roy W. Lennartson, assistant administrator for marketing, with Richard B. Bridgforth and Harry B. Wirin as members, and Charles G. Powell as alternate member. They will hear appeals taken to them from prior decisions made by the official who administers the order, and, after studying the data submitted or holding a hearing, the newly created board's decisions are final.

Nebraska note

A. E. Anderson, agricultural statistician, reports that copies of the "1949 Nebraska Agricultural Statistics" are ready for free distribution from his office at 203 Post Office Building, Lincoln 1, Nebr.

Farm crops usage

Published by the U. S. Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, Report No. 604 on the utilization of farm crops is being distributed by the Committee under resolutions authorizing investigations relative to expanded crop uses.

Overtime duty

When on July 11, the floods left the State College Station, KSAC, Manhattan, Kans., the only active radio unit operating in that area, at least 3 college radio men did steady duty for nearly 30 hours without relief. They were Larry Chrissman, assistant radio engineer, and Bob Hilgendorf and Paul DeWees, radio announcers.

Speed the mail replies

The Office of the Secretary has reminded all bureaus to avoid needless delay in handling the Secretary's pink-jacket correspondence. It is planned to furnish regular lists of unanswered letters every fortnight to the bureaus to which they have been referred. The rule is to make a full reply or an acknowledgment for the Secretary's Records within 3 days from date of reference.

Civil defense plans

In line with Secretary's Memorandum No. 1281, issued on February 16, 1951, USDA has set up a civil defense organization to afford maximum preparedness to Washington employees. Buildings have been divided into sectors. Shelter areas are defined. Wardens and other necessary officers are named. First aid classes will train workers to care for injured employees in case of emergency.

Cited scribes

The American Economics Association has made two awards to USDA authors. Kenneth L. Bachman and Ronald W. Jones received $250 in cash for the Technical Bulletin 1019, issued by Bureau of Agricultural Economics on "Sizes of Farms in the U. S." (Mr. Jones is now with Economic Cooperation Administration.) John M. Brewster, Research Division, Fats and Oils Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, is honored as the author of the most outstanding paper published in 1950, "The Machine Process in Agriculture and Industry," appearing in the February 1950 issue of the Journal of Farm Economics.

Dr. Stine retires

After nearly 37 years in USDA, and widely known for his outstanding contributions in economic research and analysis (with emphasis on prices and marketing), Dr. Oscar C. Stine retired on August 30. Since 1946, he has been assistant chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and had a hand in establishing and developing the outlook work of BAE, in cooperation with the State-Federal Extension Service. He is a native of West Virginia and a graduate of Ohio State University, with postgraduate work at University of Wisconsin, and Harvard. Dr. Stine has represented USDA abroad on numerous occasions and has been an officer of several professional associations on agricultural history, economics, and statistics. He will manage his farm at Shepherdstown, W. Va. and will make an appraisal of U. S. farm programs for the Twentieth Century Fund.

Fish bait farmers

"Soil Conservation" for September tells how the Saline Soil Conservation District in northwest Louisiana got aid from SCS specialists in land preparation and minnow-pond management. This area now raises minnows by the millions, thus utilizing land according to its best capabilities.

Country life session

Home and community responsibilities in a world of tension is the main theme of the 1951 rural life conference, sponsored by the American Country Life Association, to be held at the University of Illinois at Urbana, September 18–20. For program and other details, write the president, Milo K. Swanton, 814 Tenney Building, Madison 3, Wis.

Paraguay assignment

Dr. K. S. Markley, head of the Oil and Oilseed Division at our Southern Regional Research Laboratory, New Orleans, has been assigned to make a 3-month survey of the oilseed industry in Paraguay, on behalf of the Institute of Inter-American Affairs. This is the third such mission in which Dr. Markley has participated.

Beating beet losses

Spoilage losses and lower sugar yield occurring in huge piles of sugar beets awaiting processing have stimulated new research on breeding types with roots which have a lower respiration rate and rot resistance. Dr. G. H. Coons of Plant Industry Station says that several new disease-resistant varieties now under test give promise of filling the bill as good "keepers."

Trainee trails

"Nine men with a thousand questions" is the apt description given to a group of Austrian farm leaders who have been touring the farm States this summer under ECA projects, with Garritt E. Roelofs as their technical adviser. The Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations keeps track of the flow of these foreign visitors who come to learn U. S. methods of farming and food processing.

Brands for research goods

"Easier to suggest than to execute" is the way D. Howard Doane of St. Louis referred recently to the recommendation made by the study group on State-Federal research, that a brand or emblem appear on products of trade which result from such experiments. However, Mr. Doane insists that the plan has many advantages, including answers to the recurring query: "What has agricultural research done?"

Graduate School

Folders announcing the fall semester class schedules for the USDA Graduate School give the dates of the term as September 24–January 11. Registration hours in the patio of the Administration building for prospective students are announced thus: September 15, 9 a. m. to 4 p. m.; September 17–21, 9 a. m. to 6:30 p. m.; and September 22, 9 a. m. to 4 p. m. Full details, including rules, regulations, and course outlines, are available in the 1951–52 bulletin, which may be secured from the Graduate School, or else from training officers in your own agency.

Tomato seed oil

Ever hear of tomato seed oil? Such oil, made by pressing the seeds after processing tomatoes, often yields up to 18 percent of oil by heat, more with solvents, says G. L. Baker, Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station. It is claimed to be very digestible, and the residual seedcake has about 32 to 38 percent of protein, well suited to livestock.

Tice named board head

Milton C. Tice, dairyman and vegetable grower of Deerfield, N. J., is the new president of the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture. He is chairman of both the State Farmers Home Administration Committee and the Cumberland County Agricultural Conservation Committee.

If you lecture

There are about 230 openings for lecturers abroad, under the Fulbright Act. They are effective for the academic year of 1952, and cover university lecturing and advance research in education, humanities, and natural and social sciences for the Near East and Europe. Application forms, to be filed by October 15, may be had from: Executive Secretary, Committee on International Exchange of Persons. Conference Board of Associated Research Councils, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C.

Chemistry exhibit planned

Members of the American Chemical Society, including George W. Irving, Jr., of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, have arranged with the Library of Congress for a pictorial exhibit on chemists and their achievements at the Library during the sixteenth Assembly of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, in September—which is also the diamond jubilee of the American Chemical Society, and the fiftieth anniversary of the U. S. Bureau of Standards.

Research oldsters

Dr. Josef Brozek in the June 1951 issue of "The Scientific Monthly" says that the older research worker's experience in planning, administrative work, and evaluation of projects may make him increasingly useful even after his capacities for creative endeavor have begun to decline. Another writer in the same issue claims that the maturity of judgment and the broad frame of reference that experience gives may outweigh the effects of advancing years.

Necrology

Dr. James Fitton Couch, internationally known chemist of the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory, in Government service for 34 years, and noted for his research findings on rutin, used in treatment of the capillaries, died at Philadelphia on August 9. * * * W. P. Stanton, associate chief engineering appraiser in Farm Credit Administration, died while on a field trip, at Louisville, Ky., on July 25. His work with FCA began at Berkeley, Calif., in 1933; he also served in the Washington office for a time.

Blizzard bulletin

Hazardous experiences during the terrible blizzard of January 1949 are recounted in a 65-page bulletin compiled in part by County Agent Karl T. Mears, Rapid City, S. D.—which remains one of the "best sellers" in the Black Hills area at $1 a copy. Cowpokes and ranchers who suffered so much in the snow blockades of 1949 approve the dedicatory paragraph wherein the Agricultural Extension Service praises "the courageous men who opened trails through the fathomless whiteness, so that food and fuel might go to all who were in need, and feed for the starving cattle marooned in the hills. * * *" U. S. Weather Bureau records show that the average temperature for January 1949 was 11.2 degrees below the month's average there, while snowfall at 24 inches was an all-time high. Some USDA personnel from regional offices and Washington, D. C., also took part in the momentous "hay-lift" relief effort.

Mexican copy job

Darel McConkey, former technical editor for Food and Agriculture Organization, has accepted an information assignment with the U. S. Mexican Joint Commission for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease. He has agreed to write a history of the program since its inception. He replaces Stanley Gaines, who has spent a few months down there on special detail from the Agricultural Research Administration.

Copied abroad

Miss Dorothy Tuttle, women's editor of USA Life, issued by the State Department's Office of International Information, reports two items from the USDA workshops which have been clipped and published widely in Spain, Argentina, Australia, and elsewhere. They are that novel shopping coat and the U-shaped kitchen, designed for greater convenience and thrift by Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics.

Holding the loan ladder

Included in its broad credit and on-farm guidance programs, the Farmers Home Administration on its fifth birthday August 14, reported that it has "held the ladder" by means of which 43,000 former renters or farm hands have climbed to ownership, with over 31,000 loans marked "paid in full" as of last June 30. In the 5 years since FHA has operated under its present title, over 600,000 production loans, 16,000 farm development or enlargement loans, and over 9,000 loans to build or repair farm structures have been made. Fully half of the $58,000,000 advanced to flood and disaster sufferers since 1949 has been repaid. A brief ceremony in observance of the fifth anniversary was held by FHA in the Jefferson auditorium, USDA.

Veteran job rights

The Civil Service Commission has revised its regulations concerning restoration of Federal employees to Government positions after service in the armed forces. The new regulations provide that restoration rights will be given to permanent employees who serve not more than 4 years on active duty in the armed forces and for the granting of a leave of absence to employees for the purpose of entering or determining physical condition to enter the armed forces or for training duty. The new restoration rights apply to indefinite employees serving in defense establishments with reemployment rights back to their original agency. The regulations list the order to be used in determining the position to which an employee should be restored. Also, agencies are now required to give proper consideration for promotion to employees serving in the armed forces to the same extent as if they were not absent.

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR SEPTEMBER 26, 1951

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Federal workers' units

FEDERAL PERSONNEL Council recently set forth certain "guidelines" for use of Federal agencies in their relationships with organized employee groups. USDA has had a similar policy for some time. It is found in Chapter 44 of Title 8 of the Administrative Regulations. Space limits prevent use of FPC's full statement—which may be obtained by writing the Editor of *USDA*—but here are a few highlights.

Mutual responsibility for maintaining good relationships rests with both agency and the employee group. Employees are free to join or refrain from joining any organized employee group, and membership shall not be a condition of employment, transfer, or promotion. No employee shall strike or belong to any organized group that asserts the right to strike against the Government.

Agency officials may discuss with representatives of employee groups questions of personnel policy or other matters related to the welfare of employees. Adjustments may be effected, if they do not conflict with law or Civil Service regulations. Organized employee groups may recommend changes in any personnel policy, administrative regulation or practice, and may present complaints for agency consideration and decision. Agencies should act on such complaints without undue delay.

Failure of any organized employee group to observe the established procedures governing relationships with such units may cause denial of the privilege granted. This policy does not limit or deny the right of any individual employee or his representative to consult with agency officials.

The agency may require the organized group to submit a copy of its charter and bylaws and names of its officers, although the names and number of its membership need not be revealed. Employee representatives of an organized group are allowed to attend meetings within the local area without charge to annual leave. For meetings with officials of other agencies or outside the local area, the representatives must attend on their own time and expense.

Bulletin board space and means of distributing literature to employees should be provided by agencies. All notices and literature issued by the organized group through these means shall conform to the agency's policy. Employees may not take time out from official work to canvass or solicit memberships or collect dues for any organized group. Moreover, soliciting of this kind, either by employees not on duty or by nonemployees, must not be done where it takes the prospect's time from official duties.

Organized employee groups should be permitted to use facilities when available for membership and business meetings. These must be held outside the scheduled working hours of the agency. Requests to hold meetings should be made in advance, indicating date, time, and purpose of them. Meetings may be attended and conducted by nonemployees of the Government, except in those situations where security reasons require that only regular employees be present.

Publication exchange

To facilitate the exchange of publications between agricultural institutions in the U. S. and Latin America, the USDA Library and the University of Minnesota will head a new program through agreement with the Technical Cooperation Administration, or Point IV. This system will fill a long-felt want and has been surveyed and studied for some time by a committee of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities. Dr. Harold Macy, director of the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, is chairman of the directing committee.

Pathway to the public

TO DISTRIBUTE agricultural information in the widest possible way is one of the charter functions for which the USDA was founded in 1862. Hence each year the report made by the Inquiries and Distribution Service, Office of Information, proves how consistently this basic order is carried out—through printed publications and by replies to direct inquiries.

In the fiscal year ended last June 30, there were distributed through this service, 41,033,000 printed bulletins, circulars and periodicals—only four other years since 1941 exceeded that volume. This total is exclusive of certain publications sent out by Farmers Home Administration, Farm Credit Administration, and Rural Electrification Administration, and does not include mimeographed and other processed publications not officially "printed." Part of the foregoing bulk total is represented by final distribution in the field made by the Cooperative Extension Service and by USDA bureaus and agencies.

Farmers' bulletins led the so-called "popular" series in volume, with 5,252,000 copies distributed. The popular titles also led in the distribution of USDA publications by Members of Congress, these being about 3,386,800 copies, included in the total. Inquiries received by letter, wire, telephone, and personal visits amounted to 853,933. This also includes those transmitted to USDA for reply by Congress. Nearly 18,000 inquiries were made in person at the reception desk in our Administration Building. Fully 57,700 requests came in by telephone from other Government agencies and the public. Phone calls for information from Congressional offices totaled 26,200. A staff of only 35 employees in the Office of Information handled this volume of inquiries and distribution.

Urban and suburban requests for information have been increasing in recent years. This is especially true in the fields of food and nutrition, gardening and home food preservation, and consumer buying. Looking back for a decade, nearly 450,000,000 copies of USDA printed publications have been distributed since 1941—and the general rule always is that copies are sent out *only on request.*

Honor for Dr. Scott

Dr. Walter M. Scott, assistant chief of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, has been elected a fellow of the Textile Institute of Great Britain.

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Government neophyte

ADVICE TO the Eager Neophyte, in the summer issue of "Public Administration Review" purports to be sage and canny admonitions to youth bound for a Washington job. Four "degrees" of progress are outlined as distilled wisdom from those who have been "through the mill" of Government service. These in order of sequence are the Eager Neophyte, the Polyp, the Baited Bull and the Elder Statesman. Authors of the ritual are James A. Perkins, Carnegie Corporation, and Robert E. Sessions, formerly in USDA and later with Tennessee Valley Authority and Office of Price Administration.

If you have a program of your own and think that others in Washington have failed for lack of sufficient persuasive powers, you are ready for stage number one:

> The Eager Neophyte is a man with a mission. First, you will be full of enthusiasm, breathing the exhilarating air of a place where things are happening. It is ridiculously easy to see what needs to be done and you are the one to do it. Fresh blood is all that is needed—a new approach, free from the rigmarole of red tape and bureaucratic inertia. * * * Some weeks later, anger, frustration and despair have replaced the high resolve. You have become aware of unreasonable people who push proposals that are based on entirely erroneous ideas of what is good for the country. You are becoming a voice crying in the wilderness of Washington bureaucracy.

Becoming somewhat resigned, and content to write your memorandums and reports in the knowledge that your spot is just one of a multitude in Washington, such happy mental state moves you right on to be a Polyp. Here you, like the polyp, will be content to produce your little grain of coral as a full day's work, neither asking nor caring where your effort fits into the scheme of things. But it is merely a transitional stage, to quote again:

> Then one day you will erupt violently, probably in some committee meeting where you realize that the discussion has reached a dead end. You will be on your feet, to roast the committee for their petty minds and petty "politicking." You will demand that a decision be reached, and promptly. You deliver yourself of a series of blistering memorandums and sulphurous letters, you shout and bang the table, and you leak information to the right columnist so that the public may hear of the obstructionism (i. e., the opposition) with which you are faced.

In short, the authors say, you are well into stage number three—the Baited Bull:

> But the human body and nervous system cannot stand this pace indefinitely. Depending on your metabolism, you will at some point in time begin to slow down. You will run out of lurid language. Your fist will become sore from pounding tables. You are tired out. But you do not become a Polyp again. Instead you become detached and objective about it. You will soon see the desirability of having faith that is the essence of the Eager Neophyte. You will realize that the Polyp contributes the concept of the art of the possible, and you understand that the Baited Bull has shown the necessity of fighting hard on some carefully selected fronts.

So, they conclude you will try to incorporate the best of these into a pattern, and when you have succeeded you will have arrived at the last and final stage, that of the Elder Statesman. To those who have finally become Elder Statesmen, the authors exclaim that "Washington is their oyster—perhaps it will be yours too."

Atomic age farming

RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPE tracers are being used widely by soil scientists to follow the mystic processes whereby plants take up the materials of the earth to yield fruits, grains, and fibers for mankind. Scientists working in State and Federal projects can fertilize a soil with "tagged" radiosuperphosphate, grow clover, feed it to the cow, feed a calf on the cow's milk, and then trace evidences of phosphorus in the calf's bones which actually comes from that put into the soil originally.

Radioactive tracer technique has advanced rapidly since World War II. Scientists now use it to learn the phosphorus needs of various plants at different stages of growth and the efficiency of different phosphates. Cooperative radiophosphorus experiments in the field are supported by the State agricultural experiment stations, the Fertilizer Industry Committee on Radioactive and Tagged Element Research, the Atomic Energy Commission, and USDA's Bureau of Plant-Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering.

Responsibility for planning and coordinating the work in each land-grant college region is the job of the Regional Soil Research Committee. Each fall, as a rule, conferences are held to draft preliminary plans for the next season's experiments.

Because the purchase of fertilizers is one of the farmer's largest cash outlays, the proper use of plant food may have an important bearing on the season's profit or loss account. Hence these tracer techniques are designed among other things to get answers to questions of time and rate of application, the proper placement when planting, and the relative efficiency of basic materials composing the fertilizers in question.

Microbes at work

IN A CLOSE-UP analysis of the history and present status of soil microbiology investigations in the U. S., Dr. Charles Thom, one-time head of such research at Plant Industry Station and 8 years retired, gave facts and opinions to a meeting at Rutgers University in celebration of the first 50 years of study of this underground phase of farming. A half century ago, he said, soil bacteriology was still a kind of stepchild of soil chemistry.

He referred to the work of the late Dr. Jacob Lipman, long head of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, who started soil microbiology work there 50 years ago. At the end he quoted the late Dr. N. A. Cobb, for years head of nematology research in the Bureau of Plant Industry, as saying: "Man has cut down forests, plowed up prairies, and planted crops; where weeds sprang up, he rooted them out; if his crops did not suit him, he bred new ones for his purpose; but, in general, he has stopped at the surface of the soil and taken the whole population below the surface as immutably furnished by the Creator." Then said Thom:

> I was brought up on a farm. I've heard farmers wrangle about when and how to plow. The plow is the microbiologist's principal tool. Used incorrectly, it wastes our substance. Crop-growing is a biologist's job and the microbial population is in direct and active contact with the underground half of every growing crop plant. We need to wake up and contribute our proper share to agriculture.

TO GET PRINTED PUBLICATIONS

You may secure the printed publications you request as follows: *Washington employees* can best get printed publications at Room 104A, to the right as you enter the Administration Building. *Field employees* address: Inquiries and Distribution Service, Division of Publications, Office of Information, USDA, Washington 25, D. C. *Extension workers:* Some States require all orders for USDA publications to be sent to State extension headquarters. Others do not. However, when requesting 50 or more copies of one publication, your order should clear through your State publication distribution officer. Orders sent to Washington by extension workers should be addressed to the Division of Extension Information, Extension Service, USDA, Washington 25, D. C. Please do not ask the editor of *USDA* for copies of such publications, as he has no stock of them. He stocks only items for which you are told to write the editor of *USDA*. (These instructions appeared in *USDA*, the Employee News Bulletin, for October 10, 1949, January 16, April 10, and September 13, 1950, and January 31, 1951.)

Suitcase "chemishow"

LEGERDEMAIN OF the laboratory, which saves waste and makes magical drugs, fabrics, foods, and plastics out of farm crops, lends itself to novel presentation—when in the right hands. Such is Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry's "suitcase exhibit," planned and directed by F. L. Teuton, information head, and Dr. G. E. Hilbert, chief of the bureau. This popular "chemishow" has been seen by 50,000 persons in 21 States since its inception 2 years ago, including audiences at 13 farm and home-week programs, the National Farm Chemurgic Council, and civic club meetings.

Deftly and pleasingly demonstrated are zein or "vicara"—cloth from corn kernel proteins—a new linen-like fabric from low-grade cotton, and an array of new food products, such as: the new concentrated apple cider, grape juice and frozen orange juice, tasty rice "curls" from broken grains, pasteurized cucumber pickles, a new maple syrup-peanut butter spread, and a new candy which won't soften even at 100 degrees F.

For industrial uses, the suitcase display marches out with tightly woven cotton fabrics that hold water, an air-filter for auto carburetors made from casein, besides many other useful products fashioned by skillful chemists in USDA. Livestock and poultry feeders see a new and better way to make riboflavin—the important vitamin element. New drugs from molds, including penicillin and various antibiotics derived from agricultural sources are also in the suitcase parade. Another favorite article often demonstrated by Mr. Teuton is the new drug "rutin"—for strengthening the capillaries, transformed by chemical magic from the ordinary buckwheat plant.

Faced with such a superior showmanship and such marvelous exhibits, an ambitious theater manager would probably refer to it as a "rutin-Teuton" show. To such an estimate of its value numerous spectators who want research taken to the public would give unanimous approval.

USDA WHEN YOU RETIRE

If you still want to get *USDA* regularly after you retire, just write the editor, name and address always at the end of the last column, back page, and ask for it. It can be sent you. If you are a retiree who already gets *USDA*, don't bother; your subscription is paid up for life.

Operation "aftosa"

OUTBREAKS OF foot-and-mouth disease (aftosa) which occurred in Mexico in December 1950, and again in August of this year, only emphasize the absolute need of an adequate fighting force to locate and eradicate any outbreaks that occur. When it was announced on August 22 by the Joint Mexican-U. S. Commission for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease that the outbreak in Veracruz had been brought under control, this meant that a set pattern had been agreed upon in advance, and strictly carried out. This is substantially the "pattern" used:

Livestock inspectors visit outlying farms and ranches at regular intervals. When this field patrol finds any suspicious cases of sickness that look like foot-and-mouth disease, they set up a local quarantine and send for their area veterinary inspectors. Thereupon, further observations are made and tissue specimens are taken. These are rushed to the central diagnostic laboratory in Mexico City for analysis.

If the tests prove that the outbreak in question is really foot-and-mouth disease, samples of tissue are sent to the laboratory at Pirbright, England for confirmatory diagnosis. Infected animals are eradicated, strict quarantine is maintained, and rigid disinfection measures, with extra precautions, are carried out for an indefinite period. This means placing susceptible livestock on the ranch or farm where the outbreak occurred, and then examining them periodically for about 60 days.

This system involves bringing in supplies and equipment, often in mountainous terrain where roads are poor, as well as the recruitment of emergency labor crews and the procurement and preparation of food to sustain them. Thus, in many ways, the battle against foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico is as rugged as actual warfare itself—and requires equal vigilance and preparedness.

Two more to Point IV

Fred A. Thompson, native of Spartanburg, S. C., and holding a B. S. degree in agricultural engineering from Clemson College, has gone to serve as trainer and instructor at the training Center for Rural Engineering, Fazenda Ipanema, State of Sao Paulo, Brazil. He has served with Department of Interior and the Soil Conservation Service, and helped in a Department of the Army study in the Ryukyus Islands, * * Murl McDonald, associate director of the Iowa Extension Service and a member of that staff for 27 years, has taken up duties under Point IV technical assistance programs at Beirut, Lebanon.

Brief and choice

Picking supervisors

Personnel offices of all agencies in USDA have been told by Office of Personnel that the Civil Service Commission has a new manual being printed on the right methods of selecting supervisors.

Watch date of form 57

Because of certain revisions made in the text, the Civil Service Commission now requires that employment applications filed on editions of Standard Forms 57 and 60 issued prior to November 1947 shall no *longer be accepted* by agencies.

Brazil has mildew too

Not long ago USDA's Food and Home Notes carried a short piece about mildew and its control and prevention. Now comes an inquiry on this topic sent to Mrs. Helen Douglass, editor of FHN in USDA, from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Mildew is one of their greatest problems, and they asked for any available facts which USDA might send them.

Research workers

Full-time research personnel in the State and Territorial agricultural experiment stations for the year ended June 30, 1950, numbered 3,292, according to Office of Experiment Stations. If those engaged in part-time research, plus either extension and teaching, or both, were included, the national total would be 6,943.

Recent fact sheets

Facts sheets about rural fire prevention and collection of scrap metal for the defense effort have been issued this month by USDA. In general, all agencies are making their own distribution of these fact sheets. However, small orders of a few copies may be sent to our Office of Information, at Washington 25, D. C.

Tariff man repeats

Another revised history of the United States tariff rates on agricultural products has been compiled by C. F. Wells, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This series was begun in 1938 and the last preceding revision was in August 1946. Students of tariff history may obtain copies of this revised history from BAE's economic information office while the supply lasts.

REA telephone loans

As of August 31, 1951, REA had made telephone loan allocations to 121 borrowers—80 commercial concerns and 41 cooperatives. The value of the loans involved is $44,743,000. About 5,120 pole miles of line comprise the existing systems, with a construction program calling for 38,778 added miles. Subscribers on the lines number 79,511, with fully 86,756 new ones to be added.

Duncan Scott to Air Bulletin

Duncan Scott, former head of the Press Section, Forest Service, has transferred to the State Department's weekly "Air Bulletin for Agriculture," which he edits. It goes to approximately 300 embassies and consulates in 85 foreign countries. Its purpose is to tell the story of American agriculture to overseas readers and radio listeners. Scott did information work in the Soil Conservation Service Regional Offices in Albuquerque, N. Mex., and Upper Darby, Pa., and later was with SCS in Washington, D. C. He also taught journalism at the University of Miami, Miami, Fla., and the New Mexico A&M College.

When-is-it department

October 9–10, National Farm Electrification Conference, Gibson Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio * * * October 29–November 1, National Agricultural and Rural Family Living Outlook Conference, USDA * * * October 29–30, National Association of County Agricultural Agents, Peabody Hotel, Memphis, Tenn.

No sick leave

Dr. Alexander Wight who prior to his retirement, was head of the Tuberculosis Eradication Division of Bureau of Animal Industry, has been in a Washington hospital lately. This is an unusual experience for him. In the 42 years of his Government service he did not take a single day of sick leave.

Rural youth meeting

"My job in the rural community" is the discussion theme for the convention of the Rural Youth of USA, scheduled for October 4–7 at Jackson's Mill, W. Va. It is an outgrowth of youth work in the American Country Life Association. Full details may be obtained from Dr. E. L. Kirkpatrick, executive committee secretary, at 210 Fifth street, Marietta, Ohio.

Washington employment high

In midsummer of 1951, according to the U. S Employment Service, gainful employment in the Washington, D. C., area hit 621,-000—the greatest on record, and 9 percent above the 1950 level for the same period. The breakdown shows 332,000 employees in private industry, and 289,000 Government workers. This is a net increase of 26,000 jobs above the peak in World War II.

More farm machinery wanted

If farmers are to do a satisfactory production job in a modern way, their wants must be met for machinery and implements. To show that farmers really need new equipment, a Nation-wide survey was made last month by Production and Marketing Administration committeemen. It reported that 15 percent more new machinery and 20 percent more replacement parts are currently required than were available in 1949. A breakdown giving the survey findings on various types of farm equipment is attached to the summary report. If you want a copy, *write* the Editor of *USDA,* and ask for No. 2073.

Mewis new technical editor

Beauford H. Mewis, until recently in charge of public relations for the regional office of the Office of Price Stabilization at Little Rock, Ark., is the new head technical editor at the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. He succeeds Paul Olejar, now information specialist in the Office of the Administrator. Mr. Mewis is a graduate of the School of Journalism, University of Missouri, and served for some time as editor of publications and extension editor at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Ark. He is a native of Nebraska.

Dr. Howard in new job

Dr. L. B. Howard became associate director of the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station on September 1. After earning degrees at Purdue University and the University of Chicago, Dr. Howard came to USDA as a research chemist. Successively, Dr. Howard served as acting director of the Northern Regional Research Laboratory, principal chemist of the Western Regional Research Laboratory, assistant chief of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, and chief from 1946 to 1948. Since then he has been head of the Food Technology Department, University of Illinois.

Johnston abroad

Tom Johnston, Indiana's extension editor, Purdue University, is doing special instruction work on information media for Economic Cooperation Administration in Italy.

Forestry "alumni"

Forest Service retirees are called "alumni" and kept in touch with each other through circulation of "Alumni Notes." In July a list of retirees and their latest known addresses was issued from the USDA headquarters office as a means of helping to maintain long established friendships.

Those budget cuts

Section 409 of the Agricultural Appropriation Act for 1952 puts certain restrictions on filling vacancies and also makes cuts in the funds available for personal services. Interpretation of this section is found in Memorandum No. 172 of August 27, issued by Office of Budget and Finance. Consult the administrative office in your own agency for details.

Research referendum

North Carolina farmers will hold a Statewide referendum on November 3, on a proposal to raise funds to foster agricultural research by levying an assessment of 5 cents a ton on commercial feeds and fertilizers. The 1951 General Assembly authorized the procedure. If favorably voted by a two-thirds majority, the assessments will be collected and turned over to the Agricultural Foundation, Inc., State College, N. C.

Safety men, stop, look, listen!

From John D. Rush, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, who has made a study of farm accidents, comes a clipping from "The State," Columbia, S. C., August 6, 1951. It notes that Wallace L. Martin, member of the Laurens county agricultural committee, an officer of the REA cooperative, PMA county committeemen, a PCA director, and officer of other leading rural organizations—including the State Farm Safety Committee—was killed and his wife was injured when a car he was driving collided with a train at a grade crossing.

Major Kelley guides foreigners

Major Evan W. Kelley, formerly Regional Forester of the Northern Region, is working with Forest Service and Food and Agriculture Organization in conducting a study tour to demonstrate all phases of forest fire control to a group of some 40 foreign nationals, with Economic Cooperation Administration assistance.

Agronomy Fellows Named

During the convention of the American Society of Agronomy at State College, Pa., late in August, prominent scientists were made Fellows of the Society, in recognition of outstanding achievement: Herbert R. Albrecht, of Wisconsin, head of Penn State College agronomy department; James Thorp, of Pennsylvania, now specialist in soils research and conservation, University of Nebraska; Hickman C. Murphy, of West Virginia, famous oat breeder, with USDA at Iowa State College, Ames, Ia.; Ralph W. Donaldson, of Canada, extension agronomist, University of Massachusetts; E. Marion Brown, of Missouri, USDA research agronomist, Columbia, Mo.; John B. Peterson, of Oregon, chief of agronomy, Purdue University; Robert J. Muckenhirn, of Minnesota, soil survey and assistant director, Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station; David W. Thorne, of Utah, head of agronomy, Utah State College; Byrton T. Shaw, of Idaho, soil physicist and deputy administrator, Agricultural Research Administration, USDA; David C. Smith, of Utah, hybrid grain and grass breeder, University of Wisconsin.

FCA lawyers to meet

The 1951 conference of the Farm Credit Administration District General Counsels is scheduled for the Washington office on October 22. They work closely with the USDA Office of the Solicitor.

Prophet Bean

"The best known prophet since Daniel" is the title of a feature article published in Business Week magazine for August 18. It describes the uncanny forecasts of elections and economic trends by Louis H. Bean, Office of the Secretary. Mr. Bean's comment is that all the older prophets lacked the benefit of the printing press and were often unpopular people anyhow.

Cow in the bathtub

Using livestock profits for new household fixtures led the Walter Pullmans of Forrest City, Ark., to select a likely beef calf and name it "Bathtub"—an earmark for equipment to come. When the calf was sold the money went into bathroom improvements. So Mrs. Pullman tells her friends, "the cow is in the bathtub." Her mother, who lives with them, now enjoys this luxury, for which she has been waiting 92 years. This is reported by Jim Glasgow, assistant extension editor, University of Arkansas College of Agriculture.

Foreign observers

Gladys Gallup, Extension Service, has left for a 3-month assignment in Latin-America, on behalf of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations and the Institute of Inter-American Affairs. She is studying extension projects and methods in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Peru. * * * Mena Hogan, Extension Service, has just completed a trip of over 28,000 miles in 11 countries of Europe, also for FAR. She has brought back a comprehensive set of original photographs of home and household activities abroad.

Negroes endorse school lunch

Written, edited, and compiled by members and friends of the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, and published by Production and Marketing Administration, a new circular endorses the value of the school lunch program for teaching nutrition, good health habits and courtesy, as well as promoting scholarship and school attendance. Detailed reports of local and regional experiences in serving warm and well-balanced meals in school give the circular greater convincing appeal, and several pictures show pupils participating in the program. Material for the circular was collected by James P. Davis, administrative officer for PMA, Little Rock, Ark. Sherman Briscoe, USDA's Office of Information, edited and arranged the text. A summary introduction was written by Miss Patsy Graves, Farmers Home Administration, who is a graduate of West Virginia State College, Institute, W. Va., and the New York School of Social Work. PMA has copies for distribution. It's PA–169.

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USDA
Employee News Bulletin
FOR OCTOBER 10, 1951

Grassroots verdicts

NEVER BEFORE in all probability has a U. S. Government Department provided all of the people most concerned such a widespread opportunity to give its program the benefit of their constructive criticism as has been extended by USDA during the last few months. To that end, soon after October 15, 1951, the executives and administrators of farm policies and programs run by USDA itself and often with the aid of the land-grant colleges will know the views and suggestions of our rural communities, made in response to the current Family Farm Policy Review. By that time most of the State Agricultural Mobilization Committee summaries will be in Washington, D. C., reinforced with digests of county committee meetings, based in turn, on thousands of community opinions, freely and frankly sought and given.

Gathering experienced farm opinion, pro and con, about the 12 agencies of USDA and their work and results has been no easy task during the busy season of field work. Yet with but minor exceptions, the reports have been gratifying in their keen response, their scope and detail, and their democratic method of approach. This notable cross section of farm discussion and ideas was secured according to the best available systems devised by the respective State and Territorial A. M. Committees and cooperating farm and community groups. But in each case the final goal sought was to get informed farm folks to say what parts of the programs to keep, what to change or abolish entirely, and what new ones seem necessary and advisable to give more effective and efficient service to the family farms, during either calm or crisis.

Throughout the recent deliberative period across the Nation, efforts were made to provide farmers and their spokesmen with what amounted to brief "refresher courses" in the activities and accomplishments of these 12 USDA agencies and their State cooperators. Care was taken to give minority reports equal thought and attention to that given majority opinions. This is because a local minority viewpoint may often turn out to be over on the majority side when State or National opinion is all complete. Every effort was also made at the meetings to determine what farm and nonfarm groups were represented, and the total number of working farmers participating, all of which information is on the record. Considerable publicity concerning the State and County conclusions and recommendations was usually provided by the press and radio, and all angles of any debated question were normally presented.

What happens after these numerous reports have been forwarded to Washington? The job of digesting and analyzing them goes back to the Family Farm Policy Review Committee which sponsored the original provisional report—a committee that includes representatives of each agency of the Department, plus invited representatives of the farm organizations, land-grant colleges, and church groups interested in improvement of rural life and rural living. After studying the reports, they will recommend to the Department and its agencies any improvements that can be made in present programs within existing authority. If the "grass roots" reports reflect recommendations which would imply changes in authority or financial responsibility, such recommendations will be made available to the customary Congressional committees for their future consideration.

Extension philosophy

A new book about the spirit and philosophy of agricultural extension work is in preparation, slated to be published sometime in 1952. The publication will be a joint effort of Graduate School and Epsilon Sigma Phi.

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Cash awards

THE FOLLOWING individuals have received cash awards for adopted suggestions during the period of July 1 through August 31. (Detailed information concerning the suggestions may be secured from the Bureau Efficiency Awards Committee):

Bureau of Animal Industry—JOHN L. MYERS, Ottumwa, Iowa, $25.

Farm Credit Administration—NORMAN L. ROSENCRANS, Washington, D. C., $25.

Farmers Home Administration—ROBERT W. ALEXANDER, Denver, Colo., $20.

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation—BETTY A. FINN, Des Moines, Iowa, $10.

Forest Service—LOUIS H. HAGEN, Ogden, Utah, $35; JOHN S. MASLACK, Halsey, Nebr., $15; PERCY J. PAXTON, Atlanta, Ga., $75; BRUCE STRICKLER, San Francisco, Calif., $50.

Production and Marketing Administration—EUGENE H. BOYLES, Gainesville, Fla., $60; JOHN L. BUNTIN and V. H. NICHOLSON, Washington, D. C., joint award, $50; ELLA M. GRAY, Columbia, Mo., $40; RALPH F. HARTMAN, Minneapolis, Minn., $10; NORMAN F. HORSEY, Washington, D. C., $10; EDWARD W. KOENIG, Chicago, Ill., $195; ANNETTE SCHNELL, Chicago, Ill., $120; W. K. SCRUGGS, Atlanta, Ga., $10; JOHN W. STEWART, Washington, D. C., $10; LORRAINE STEWART, Chicago, Ill., $10; EDWARD L. THOMPSON, Washington, D. C., $65; CLYDE A. WHITTED, South St. Joseph, Mo., $25; WILLIAM W. WILLIAMS, Washington, D. C., $10.

Rural Electrification Administration—HELEN L. RUSSELL, Washington, D. C., $10.

Soil Conservation Service—ARTHUR J. JOHNSON, San Fernando, Calif., $200; BEULAH MARSHALL, Evanston, Wyo., $92.50; THOMAS J. PRICE, Burlington, Vt., $10.

Talkie for truckers

Ordinarily it takes three men to properly load a wholesale produce truck for retail store deliveries. One calls the items, one takes them into the truck, and the third man loads them. But, using a voice recording prepared in the office beforehand, and playing through a loud-speaker during the warehouse operation, results in cutting labor cost one-third. This is the basic idea behind the experimental results in a Production and Marketing Administration experiment under the Research and Marketing Act. More about this new platter project may be secured by writing the Office of Information Services, PMA, USDA, Washington 25, D. C., for the report, "Use of Recording and Transcribing Equipment in Loading Delivery Trucks."

Cradles of science

According to a survey reported in the July issue of the Scientific American, the "small liberal arts colleges are far and away the most productive sources of future scientists among U. S. institutions." The study was launched in 1946 by Wesleyan University and later was subsidized by a grant from the Carnegie Foundation. The source of scientists was based on the number of graduates per 1,000 who later earned Ph. D. degrees. The study was confined to persons who had received doctorates in the natural sciences and who were listed in American Men of Science. These persons were checked against the list of doctorates compiled by the National Research Council. Five member institutions of the land-grant college system are included in a listing of the top 50 institutions producing the Nation's scientists. State supported agricultural colleges stood at the top when they were compared as to type. These colleges had an average of nearly 20 scientists for each 1,000 graduates.

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CIENTISTS are always busy in their varied ways serving agriculture and the public. Their discoveries that the addition of antibiotics and synthetic vitamins to livestock and poultry feeds speed growth have stepped up meat production considerably. Quite as useful is their finding that phenothiazine is an effective and safe worm remover for domestic animals. While the drug has no tonic, stimulating, or growth-promoting effect per se, it does increase meat production appreciably by permitting animals to grow normally which might otherwise have been afflicted with parasitic worms that stunt them. This sort of research goes on in the Bureau of Animal Industry.

Meanwhile, the workers at our Northern Regional Research Laboratory in Peoria have found that the addition of as little as a half pound of phytic acid, which occurs in all cereals and oil seeds in small quantities, to a ton of soybean oil will lengthen the storage life of the oil and prevent the development of off-flavors. The chemists have an idea that it acts as a sort of metal scavenger, preventing traces of copper or iron that may be in the oil from reacting with the oil to produce undesirable flavors. Citric and phosphoric acids are now used as oil stabilizers, though the latter causes a distinctive cucumberlike flavor of its own. If phytic acid proves entirely safe to use for this purpose, and such use is approved by the Food and Drug Administration, it may also find use in protecting hydrogenated shortenings made from the oils and used in baked goods and other foods.

Elsewhere are scientists armed with microscopes at work enforcing the Federal Seed Act. For instance, alfalfa seed must be adapted to the locality where planted or the plants can easily be killed off by winter freezes. Growers will pay substantial premiums to get seed that will produce hardy plants. Seed specialists cannot distinguish by sight an alfalfa seed grown in Montana or Canada from one grown in New Mexico or Arizona. However, use of the magnifying glass, plus years of experience, enable them to detect mixed with the alfalfa seed the seeds of weeds common in the Southwest; these "foreign" weed seeds prove that the alfalfa seed is not of northern origin. Production and Marketing Administration carries on this work.

Filly fillet

STALLION SIRLOIN gourmets should be warned against the careless statement we have seen printed for consumers that "there are no State or Federal laws governing the inspection of horsemeat." Let's not allow our public to be misled, especially those who relish such fare. Upon inquiry of our Federal Meat Inspection Service, Bureau of Animal Industry, we find that horsemeat which is sold in interstate or foreign commerce must be inspected under terms of the Horsemeat Act of 1919. A rigid set of rules has been posted for some time by FMIS to control this branch of meat inspection. Besides, most States and a number of municipalities really do have laws which at least cover the sale and trade in horsemeat products—although it is admitted that there may be a lack of the most strict inspection within some States.

Regulations of FMIS require that horsemeat slaughter and processing must be done in premises separate from those used for the slaughtering of cattle, sheep, swine, and goats and the processing incidental thereto. To a great extent, the larger horse slaughtering and processing establishments also deal in canned pet food production. Typically large and sanitary horsemeat plants which are federally inspected are those at Topeka, Kans., Estherville, Iowa; Rockford, Ill., and Marion, Ohio. There have been some rumors of cases of deliberate adulteration of beef and pork with fresh horsemeat at the retail level, which has required some new local regulations to meet the situation.

Meanwhile, the records of the Meat Inspection Service show the following number of horses slaughtered by fiscal years in federally inspected plants: 241,036 in 1948; 307,785 in 1949; 240,010 in 1950; and 319,601 in 1951.

Beyond the dollar sign

LOOK BEYOND the dollar sign to see the real achievements of Farmers Home Administration, Forest Service, and other agency programs, John Parsell, Chief of FHA's Finance Division, told members of the Potomac Toastmasters Club in Washington recently.

Parsell said the FHA dollar-value profit-and-loss balance sheet would fail to show the program's real worth if put out on a commercial firm basis. It would show that interest income from loans make a Treasury profit, even in spite of some inevitable losses. But it would not show what the supervised credit program enables farmers to do for themselves and thereby for the Nation. For example, he said that more than 32,000 families had paid up and left the program in the fiscal year 1950. They not only repaid all they owed the FHA, with interest, but advanced to a point where they now can operate on private credit. Over 27,000 of them have remained on farms, most of them are taxpayers. They are increasing total production through efficient use of operating equipment, land improvements, and more secure tenure, thus putting otherwise idle man power and land power at work building up a stronger America. "To ignore these facts would be closing our eyes to an important contribution to our agricultural economy," said Parsell.

The 180,000,000 acres in National Forest owned by the United States represent another asset that cannot be truly reflected on a commercial type balance sheet, Parsell added. "A third of the Nation's commercial timber, a sixth of its commercial timberland, a large part of the summer ranges for western livestock, and 70 percent of the big game of the West are on that land, and nearly all the important sources of western water and most of the recreation areas. Therefore, he concluded, "to place dollar values on all these benefits would be as meaningless to the average American as to try to put a monetary value on the Washington Monument."

Favorite Novels in Dixie

Since the USDA conference on rural reading in September, it's interesting to check through the list of favorite novels given to Editor Clarence Poe by readers of "Progressive Farmer:" Gone with the Wind, Saint Elmo, Jane Eyre, The Yearling, Ben Hur, David Copperfield, Silas Marner, Ivanhoe, Robinson Crusoe, Tale of Two Cities, Tom Sawyer, Treasure Island, Christmas Carol, Les Miserables, Seventeen, and Count of Monte Cristo. (Only two modern writers in the whole list!)

Retired floral expert

E. C. Powell, Silver Spring, Md., formerly Chief Editor of USDA publications, is an outstanding breeder and developer of new varieties of daffodils and lilies, and rates as the "best grape grower in the Washington area," to quote the garden editor of The Evening Star. Mr. and Mrs. Powell observed their sixty-first wedding anniversary in July 1951.

Defense act amendments

The Office of the Recording Secretary, Office of Price Stabilization, has issued a 54-page circular which gives the exact wording and meaning of the various amendments recently made to the Defense Production Act. If your own agency hasn't secured copies, write Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. Price 20 cents.

Scrap harvesting

WHEN WE say "Americans are the scrappiest people" it doesn't mean that we are truculent, but that we are improvident. To make up somewhat for our careless waste and scrap scattering proclivities, an intensified effort is now launched to pick up some of the pieces and use them over again in an emergency.

The National Production Authority has asked USDA and all its agencies and employees to give active support to this special farm clean-up and scrap salvage drive. State and County Agricultural Mobilization Committees are spearheading the effort, in answer to a direct appeal made by Secretary Charles F. Brannan. The weeks between the end of harvests and the first heavy snows will see the chief activity in this scrap collecting move. Roughly, that means generally between October 15 and November 15, although no exact limits are set for the Nation-wide salvage effort.

Steel mills need more scrap metal for their roaring defense-boom furnaces. Scrap left to rust and waste in weedy corners and behind barns won't help cook up critical steel for munitions and ships or to build delayed schoolhouses and new farm machinery and equipment. In his recent memorandum on scrap salvage, Secretary Brannan remarked on the "generous support" given by farmers in World War II to frantic calls for scrap metal. He said that he was "confident that farmers and ranchers will meet the present urgent request for this vital defense material."

Prompt shipment of collected scrap direct to the yawning steel furnaces is promised by NPA. Local scrap dealers are alerted. Better information on fair local prices payable for farm scrap metal is important. Office of Price Stabilization's ceiling price for scrap metal is related only to specified basing points. Local prices depend mostly on what dealers feel they can pay after absorbing overhead charges of hauling and sorting. Regardless of price, the big thing is to get this rubbish into the rolling mills.

Literature currently used and now available are NPA's "Farmers and Ranchers, Let's Get in the Scrap"; and USDA's Farm Mobilization Fact Sheet No. 3 on farm scrap collection.

Schaal turns editor

Wilbert Schaal, Information Specialist in Bureau of Dairy Industry, has taken the editorship of "Food Packer," Chicago trade magazine. He is a native of Carroll County, Ohio, and graduated from Ohio State University in 1942.

Said on the side

NOBODY IN our valley ever figured out for certain what made the leaves turn into all the bright sunset colors early in the fall. This strange thing always came in time for us to look up across the hazy hills as we trudged off to school along the dusty, narrow road, bordered with wild grape vines. It set us to imagining what the "Injins" believed the Great Spirit did to make the woods look so nice after the corn was harvested, the butternuts were gathered, and the birds started southward.

I don't suppose anybody who still lives in our old valley, even after all these scientific years, has really guessed exactly what makes the oak trees look so mixed in tones, or why some maples and all sumacs turn bright red, and the elms and cottonwoods show off in varied hues of golden yellow—after all those weeks of summer during which they all stood there so quiet and green. I'm sure that none of our old neighbors know much more about it now than they ever did, or spend much time in wondering why this gorgeous pattern comes to our valley every season without special request. I presume a few of them never really see these brilliant woods clearly, being so very busy bending over tasks which earn them bread and butter and a little nest-egg against the future and the winter that's on the way.

But the drawback to our enjoyment has always been that these fancy bands of bright colors sweeping over the hills around our valley never stay with us long enough. They're at their best for only about 2 weeks and then vanish—nobody knows where. And that's also a big mystery. Here is a lovely thing you like to watch, and all too soon it vanishes, and you never know where it goes, or why it leaves you so fast. You can't find any ordinary way to keep the autumn colors in a leaf from getting fainter and fainter, and finally petering out to a flat, dull monotone, just like a piece of tanned leather. Yes, it's just like trying to hold fast to the fresh beauty of youth and keeping the dreams of childhood safe from change and decay. But it's no use, because the mystery of how come those colors on the hills, and where they go, remains a question mark as big as our own lives and what comes after them * * * You can't blame it on Jack Frost, who came sneaking up our valley every night to pinch the vine tendrils and nip the leaves before the sun rises out of the fog of a snappy October morning in corn husking time. The hitch to that idea is that the best colors seen in our panorama along the ridges often come before there has been the least sign of frost anywhere * * * So I guess it's some internal business going on in the leaves after they have fulfilled a season's intense and fluttering duty amid the dancing sunbeams and cloud shadows. This sudden bright change in their dress gives them one more last chance to be gay and attractive before they get the signal from Somewhere to dry up and drop off—to make room for a new generation's hopeful growth and greenery.

Readers' reminders

Job outlook handbook

U. S. is still the best land of opportunity, but it's often hard to tell a youngster on which door the knock will come, so the U. S. Department of Labor says in its new reference tome for employment services, colleges, and youth counselors. It is called the "Occupational Outlook Handbook," a new edition of a former book of this kind which sold 40,000 copies. It covers everything from accounting to X-ray technician. If your nearest library hasn't one handy, you can get it for $3 from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

Beef grades explained

Brief explanation of the five standard grades for beef cuts and how they provide meat eaters with a reliable guide to quality, together with a suggested cooking guide to bring out the best qualities of various cuts, are found in Leaflet 310, just issued by Livestock Branch, Production and Marketing Administration. Get this handy guide to quality meat and where the beef cuts are located on the carcass by writing to Information Services of PMA. Branch offices will also have copies.

Color chart for poultry buyers

Educational agencies may get a new color chart, "Know the Poultry You Buy," from Information Services, Production and Marketing Administration, USDA. It comes in two sizes, a large wall chart and a smaller folding one which carries buying guide data. To fill large commercial orders, the Government Printing Office will carry a sales stock, but no overprinting of charts with commercial advertising is permitted.

Large farm advances in Dixie

"I believe the possibility for agricultural advances are larger in the South than for the Nation as a whole. USDA scientists say that research progress with feed crops comparable with that now in effect for cotton and tobacco may make it possible for Southern farmers to grow enough feed and forage to support three times their present livestock numbers." Quoted from Secretary Brannan's talk at Spartanburg, S. C., September 5, 1951. Write the Editor of *USDA* for "Rebuilding Strength in the Land" No. 2164.

Bucolic Baedecker

A Guide to Agriculture in the U. S. A. is an interesting preface to production areas of the Nation, just published as a Department bulletin by Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. It will help foreign visitors to get better acquainted and know what to look for. State colleges will have copies. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics cooperated.

"Out, damned spot!"

Take out acids, grease and inks, mud, and tar, and upset drinks—by consulting Farmers' Bulletin 1474, revised, by Margaret S. Furry, assistant textile chemist, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. Many stained and spotted garments are needlessly thrown away and others are ruined by the wrong methods of stain removal. Ask for "Stain Removal from Fabrics." Probably your nearest home demonstration agent has a copy for you.

Runt pigs respond to antibiotics

Feed supplements containing antibiotics are more useful in transforming runty, unthrifty pigs into growing and healthy animals than they are in speeding up growth of normal pigs. Growth rates increased up to 100 percent with antibiotics in the diet of weak pigs, whereas healthy pigs consuming the same diet reinforced with antibiotics showed only 10 to 20 percent increased growth rate, or none whatever. If interested in these findings by USDA scientists in Bureau of Animal Industry, write the Editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2144.

Irrigation book

Ivan E. Houk, holding a B. S. degree from Iowa State University, and a consulting engineer in Denver, Colo., is author of a 545-page book issued as volume 1 of "Irrigation Engineering." Agricultural and Hydrological phases mark the first volume, while project plans and structures are listed for the second one. The USDA Library has it, or else write John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 440 Fourth Ave., New York 16, N. Y. Price $9.

Brief and choice

Demography

The American Population Association has named Margaret Hagood, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, as one member of a special committee to study the teaching of demography. In explanation, "demography" relates to the study of population statistics.

Cotton research grants

Three full-time positions and eight research assistant-ships are provided at the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station through grants-in-aid for cotton research from 14 agencies or companies for the current fiscal year. One grant was made in perpetuity.

Volts and vets

Electric power for the farms can be used to replace manpower taken away to the armed forces, or for defense industry recruitment, according to Rural Electrification Administration. Right now, REA is busy getting out special information to borrowers about efficient and economical operation of water systems, portable motors and plumbing and wiring methods.

Littauer scholarship to Lakin

Harold E. Lakin, with Soil Conservation Service since 1935, has been awarded the Littauer scholarship by the Conservation Foundation. It provides 1 year's study in the Graduate School of Public Administration at Harvard University. He has received leave of absence as district conservationist at East Lansing, Mich. so that he may take advantage of the award. Mr. Lakin is a native of Michigan and holds a B. S. degree in agricultural economics from the State College.

Beltsville turkeys gain

About 16 percent of all the commercial turkeys raised this year will be the famous improved Beltsville White variety, as compared with 12 percent last year. Earlier marketing is the rule, with 30 percent of the crop being sold in October or sooner. A record turkey crop of 52,774,000 birds is due this year, to mingle with the rich sauce of 915,000 barrels of fall-harvested cranberries.

Less homework for hens

Studies of sources of heat used for hatching chicks, as made by Bureau of Agricultural Economics, list electricity at 29 percent, oil at 27 percent, coal at 21 percent, gas at 10 percent, wood at 6 percent, and the old hen herself at 7 percent. So the modern hen becomes a laying specialist instead of a sitting one.

Specialized employment

It is necessary to get the approval of the Office of Personnel before any agency may apply the provisions stated in Section 407, Agricultural Appropriation Act of 1952. This section authorizes the Department to employ or contract for work at regular rates of pay for emergency forest fire fighting, pest control, and for handling of animals, including dairy cattle. This is without regard to Sundays, Federal holidays, and the regulation work week.

Guest lecturers

Agricultural policies in the defense period is the theme chosen for a series of Graduate School lectures, leading off with those given by Eric Johnston, Economic Stabilization Administrator, and Allan Kline, head of American Farm Bureau Federation. Other speakers will be James G. Patton, National Farmers Union, October 15; Herschel D. Newsom, Master of the National Grange, October 22; Walter P. Reuther, United Automobiles, Aircraft and Agricultural Workers, CIO, October 29; Hon. Clifford R. Hope, Kansas, November 8; and Senator Allen J. Ellender, Louisiana, November 12.

Reemployment of annuitants

The Civil Service Commission has recently uncovered several cases where Federal employees have exercised their rights to optional retirement and have then been employed at once thereafter in the same jobs, thus enabling the employee to qualify for benefits under the Social Security Act. The CSC states that such practices are contrary to the intent and purpose of the civil service and social security systems and that Federal supervising officers would invite criticism by participating in such an arrangement with any employee.

Expensive to expire

Possibly Utah Agricultural College's bulletin 350 is the first one among land-grant colleges to tackle cemeteries and funerals. It is part of a general series to be issued by Utah Agricultural Experiment Station on rural institutions serving the public. Written by Joseph A. Geddes, emeritus professor, and Carmen Frederickson, assistant sociology professor, as a Purnell project, the bulletin of 72 pages is well illustrated. Burial folkways and mores, funeral customs and costs, and the management of rural cemeteries are discussed. Expensive floral pieces, competitive monument building and such matters lead the authors to state that "the entire series of burial practices in Utah could well be appraised in the light of simple dignity, kindliness, American ideals and Christian motives." They also suggest consolidation of graveyards, after the modern school pattern, because small local cemeteries belong to the "horse and buggy days."

Syllabication

What's your score in syllabication? Such is the query used to introduce a self-training course for secretaries and typists issued by the Training Staff, Office of Personnel Management, Production and Marketing Administration. Correct use of the hyphen to divide words which break at the end of a line of writing is set forth in a 65-word list, with which you try your hand at first and then check with the right way, according to rules. *Never* divide a one-syllable word and *never* end a page with a hyphenated word are among the common examples given.

Crop yields and fertilizers

If crop acreage cannot be easily stretched, higher rates of fertilization may get the same result. A series of State by State and region-wide estimates of the effects of fertilizers on crop yields have been issued in handy form by the National Soil and Fertilizer Research Committee, a work group of State and Federal soil scientists, headed by R. Q. Parks of USDA. Reports for the South and the North Central Regions have been issued, to be followed by others for the Northeastern and Western States, as well as for the United States as a whole. Copies are available at the respective State agricultural experiment stations.

Duo-Kerf ripsaw invented

A power-saving ripsaw that cuts an extra smooth surface, and reduces less wood to sawdust than the usual circular saw of the same gage and size has been invented by L. H. Reineke, Industrial Investigations Division, U. S. Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wis. It's name—the Duo-Kerf saw—signifies that the kerf or cut is taken in two stages by two distinct types of teeth. That is, alternate teeth of the Duo-Kerf saw take a thin, deep bite, and then a shallow "side-dressing" bite to cut wood fibers and remove them with smaller power requirement and less chip or sawdust. Because of lessened resistance to chip removal from the kerf, the new saw uses 20 to 25 percent less power than the regular circular headsaw. The resulting smoother surface cut offers several advantages, including less requirement for dressing allowance, and the need for less planing. As it cuts a thinner kerf than a standard saw of the same thickness the saving of wood in less sawdust removed may amount to 4 percent of the log in cutting, for example, nominal-inch finish lumber.

Preliminary tests made in the fundamentals of the action of cutting tools in wood—a field never before well explored—led to its invention. They found that the action of a single ripsaw tooth was composed of four distinct steps, the energy of each being evaluated. While most useful in a solid-tooth saw, the new principle of the Duo-Kerf can be applied to insert-tooth saws or band saws. Commercial tests are under way. Send inquiries to the Madison laboratory.

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USDA
Employee News Bulletin

FOR OCTOBER 24, 1951

Finance facts

JUST A FEW of the basic and often poorly understood facts about the current budget for USDA and its employees are taken from notes made during a talk given by Ralph S. Roberts, Director of Finance and Budget Officer, before the Personnel Officers' luncheon meeting.

In the budget submitted to Congress last January, USDA appropriation requests amounted to 1.6 percent of the total for the entire Federal Government. By contrast, the funds associated directly with defense preparations, international activities, veterans' affairs, and interest on the public debt footed up to approximately 87.1 percent. Congressional action reduced USDA funds for 1952 by some $154 million below 1951, including about $13 million available for the payment of salaries and expenses. The remainder affects funds for loans, conservation aids and similar program purposes. Current USDA appropriations are about half a billion dollars below 1940. Employment during that period has come down approximately 40,000, thus indicating that Agriculture is not a "war-swollen" agency.

Required personnel cuts provided for USDA in the final 1952 Appropriation Act roughly equalled 4,300 man-years (about 7 percent) below 1951. About half of this cut resulted from the so-called "Ferguson amendment" which reduced salary funds in Washington, regional, and State offices by 10 percent below the budget. These offices account for 38 percent of the total USDA budget for salaries. The Ferguson amendment did not apply to the remaining 62 percent used to pay workers at county offices and other field locations at the "grass-roots." The 4,300 man-year cut does not mean that there will have to be that many reductions in the present force, because of prior action already taken, and the fact that in many instances vacancies that occur will not be filled.

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HONOR IN U. S. SERVICE

Under provision of Executive Order 9419 and pursuant to authority in AR 600-45, the Bronze Star medal with letter V for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States was awarded to Private (now Sergeant) Bill S. Maddox, Medical Company, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2d Infantry Division, who distinguished himself by heroic achievement on May 17-18, 1951, in Korea. As an aidman to a rifle company attacked by numerically superior forces, Private Maddox braved intense enemy small arms, automatic weapons, mortar, and machine-gun fire to care for the wounded. Though not expected or required to fight, he willingly joined the battle. The heroism in action and devotion to duty demonstrated by Private Maddox reflect great credit upon himself and the military services. (Mr. Maddox is a USDA employee in the Office of the State Statistician at Little Rock, Ark., on military leave.)

Last month President Truman said: "We have the greatest Government in the world, and the most loyal and efficient Government servants. I am proud to be a part of it. I think you are proud to be a part of it, too. * * * It is time that we made perfectly plain that we feel it is an honor to work for our fellow citizens through the public service."

Suspend clipsheet

USDA's weekly Clipsheet sent to numerous publications and individuals for several years, mostly relating to State-Federal research projects, has been suspended for the present. Reason? Fund shortage. Palmer Smith, its editor, has transferred to do editing work on USDA publications.

Government service training

Eight persons to represent USDA on the Department and Land-Grant College Committee on Training for Government Service were named last month by Secretary Brannan. They are: T. Roy Reid, Office of Personnel, chairman; Hugh H. Bennett, Soil Conservation Service; P. V. Cardon, Agricultural Research Administration; F. F. Elliott, Bureau of Agricultural Economics; Hazel K. Stiebeling, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics; Lyle F. Watts, Forest Service; M. C. Wilson, Extension Service; and C. O. Henderson, Pers. Dr. Charles E. Friley, president, Iowa State College, is chairman of the group representing land-grant colleges.

Gilt edge loans

INTEREST EARNED at the rate of 6.86 percent per year on its original capital is the boast of Farm Credit's Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation. This happy situation is one of the strong facts contributing to justified praise of the agency, culminating in White House ceremonies held last August 21. At that time in the presence of President Truman and Secretary Brannan, FCA's Governor I. W. Duggan handed a check for a million dollars to Treasury Secretary John Snyder. This completed the payment of 100 million dollars in such dividends by FFMC. Over 30 million dollars more dividends are expected from loans still outstanding.

The Corporation was created by Act of Congress approved January 31, 1934, to assist the Federal land banks in financing their lending operations and also to finance Land Bank Commissioner loans. These loans, which are no longer made, could be for as much as 75 percent of the appraised normal value of the farm property. Also, the FFMC under certain conditions, financed second mortgage loans chiefly to supplement first mortgage land bank loans. By June 30, 1947, when the authority of the Land Bank Commissioner to make new loans expired, the Corporation financed 258,000 first mortgage loans for $422,000,000, and 421,000 second mortgage loans for $794,000,000 or a combined total of 679,000 loans for $1,216,000,000. The loans were made through the cooperative land bank system.

Large numbers of farmers who received them during the depression years give great credit to these loans for invaluable help in a time of great stress. In a statement made at the ceremony, President Truman pointed out that the FFMC began operations under an Act of Congress in 1934 with a capital of $200,000,000 of which all but $10,000 has been repaid to the Treasury. The dividend payments totaling $100,000,000 were in addition to this sum. Mr. Truman expressed pleasure for the efficient way the farmer-owned land bank system handled these loans, and for the fact that it is continuing to provide sound long-term, low-cost loans to meet the mortgage needs of our farmers and ranchers.

Old-age employment

The Federal Security Agency has released a 311-page report about finding jobs for our increasing population over 65 years old. It is called "Man and His Years," printed by the Health Publications Institute, Inc., Raleigh, N. C.

Our welfare association

THE AGE of the Welfare Association of the Department of Agriculture is surprising to even the "30 year-ers" of the Department. It was in 1918 when Hon. Carl Vrooman, then Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, directed his attention to the employees' problems of housing, lunchroom facilities, and influenza victims. He called a meeting and was elected president, with Agnes J. Quirk, Bureau of Plant Industry, vice president, and Carl Peterson, Bureau of Markets, secretary.

The first project was a lawn fete on the Department grounds. Admission was gained with a thrift stamp, in order to boost the current sales, and the proceeds from the refreshment stands were to be used to continue the program. Another purpose of the lawn fete was to announce to the employees the necessity of a welfare association. So after a well-received speech by the Honorable Carl Vrooman, the rest of the evening was spent in dancing on the walk in front of the old red brick building to the music of the Army and Navy Bands. The first evening netted $1,185 from thrift stamps and $47 from refreshments.

Past records of the association show several cases of financial assistance during the period of the influenza epidemic to lighten the suffering and destitution existing among the employees. There was also the unique case of shipping the body of an influenza victim to her people who were in poor circumstances.

From 1920 until 1923, the association was practically dormant until it was revived by a group of experienced volunteer workers who incorporated "The Welfare Association of the Department of Agriculture." Their objective (those were inflation days) was to provide emergency aid to employees. Each bureau and agency appointed a welfare committee, the membership of which made up an administrative council elected from its members, the officers of the association, and a board of directors.

Aside from the substantial financial aid given after a period of 10 years (1933) the association was granted a permit by the Secretary of Agriculture to operate a cafeteria in the Department building. The first cafeteria was opened to employees in 1934.

The history of the association for the past 33 years is filled with varied, interesting, and enlightening human endeavors, all of which have led to our present Welfare Association, of which Lance Hooks of Production and Marketing Administration, is currently the president. It also boasts of a personal loan service with a revolving fund of $10,000 and the employees recreational activities. These two services are financed with the profits from the 6 cafeterias and 2 snack bars.

Every employee of USDA should become thoroughly acquainted with the Welfare Association because, in its own terms: "The scientist, the professional man, the clerk, and the laborer share alike in its pleasures, its benefits, and its emergency services."

Cash Awards

THE FOLLOWING individuals have received cash awards for adopted suggestions during the period of September 1 through September 30, 1951. (Detailed information concerning the suggestions may be secured from the Bureau Efficiency Awards Committee.)

Bureau of Animal Industry—PIERRE F. BENOIT, Chicago, Ill., $50; MEIER BRODNER, New York, N. Y., $75; CLIFFORD L. CLABAUGH, Fort Dodge, Iowa, $75; HAROLD C. DABNEY, Washington, D. C. $50; FRANK J. KULISH, St. Louis, Mo., $50; WILLIAM A. SHANNON, Pittsburgh, Pa., $50; F. R. THORNDIKE, Chicago, Ill., $50.

Farmers Home Administration—KENNETH R. BOWER, Creston, Iowa, $10; GWENDOLYN H. BRAND, Houston, Miss., $15; FREEMAN J. BYINGTON, Tremonton, Utah, $90; MABEL G. CHAMBLESS, Oak Grove, La., $10; LILITH FLOHR, Indianapolis, Ind., $10; DOELAS G. GRIFFIN and MILDRED V. MCCRAY, Malvern, Ark., joint award, $20; ANNIE LAURIE MACKEY, Montgomery, Ala., $10; CELESTE B. PRICE, Lexington, S. C., $10; GAYNELLE C. SMITH, Columbia, S. C., $145; NANCY M. VITTRUP, Dallas, Tex., $10; DOLORES E. WANGSNESS, Sioux Falls, S. Dak., $10.

Forest Service—WILHO A. SALMINEN, Marquette, Mich., $10; RALPH H. SCHMALJOHN, Halsey, Nebr., $15.

Production and Marketing Administration—IVAN O. CAUTHEN, Dallas, Tex., $130; ALINE E. SEWELL, Washington, D. C., $110.

Soil Conservation Service—MAURICE B. MCILVEEN, Portland, Oreg., $140; FOSTER R. STRYKER, Portland, Oreg., $15.

Incentive awards booklet

An 8-page printed pamphlet, "Incentive Awards" for supervisory use has been prepared by the Office of Personnel, to be released shortly. USDA awards programs are individually outlined together with eligibility requirements, legal authorizations, and other criteria. The publication is intended to clarify and stimulate awards program operations. See your own personnel officer.

Philatelic fan

Dr. Theodore Sherman Palmer, Washington, D. C. (retired) who has some 50,000 specimens in his stamp album, was a career biologist and game specialist with the USDA and the Department of Interior. He is a graduate of the University of California, and later received a medical degree at Georgetown University. His service with the Biological Survey covered 44 years, and he has been an officer, at various times, of the American Ornithological Union and the National Association of Audubon Societies.

Conservation teaching

LARGELY RESULTING from aggressive projects set afoot by Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service, Extension Service, and State and allied agencies, the conservation of our natural resources is being taught to most of our school children in some form and often by teachers trained in special courses and resource-use workshops. In fact, resources of soils, water, and forest give classes four R's instead of the original three once commonly taught in elementary schools.

More and more school directors are recognizing that prudent use and good stewardship of our natural resources are to a great degree the duty and privilege of our educational system. The integration of conservation in regular courses begins with small children and continues through high school, and on through colleges. Every opportunity is used to teach thrifty management of our soils, water, forests, and wild life, blending such lessons with courses in civics, science, history, geography, economics, art, languages and mathematics—often with special text books.

Teachers' courses in conservation are sponsored widely by teachers' colleges, universities, State departments of education, county superintendents, local school boards and community groups. Often teachers are taken out where they can study the problems of soil, water, wildlife and forest conservation under technical guidance of trained specialists. Most States are holding some form of summer training for teachers, to guide and inspire them to instill practical principles of resource conservation in the minds of receptive pupils. State conservationists of SCS say that 90 percent of these teacher training centers have asked them for aid in giving lectures and field tours. Soil conservation district supervisors have been responsible for aiding teachers to attend these workshop and conservation camps, and have helped organize and conduct many of them. Besides, SCS personnel helped stage lectures and tours this year in several thousand outdoor camps with nearly 2,000,000 juniors attending. Here also forest rangers from the U. S. Forest Service have contributed. Forest Service has likewise produced circulars to make school lessons attractive and practical.

When-is-it department

November 4–7, National Association of Home Demonstration Agents, Fort Worth, Tex.; November 13–15, Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, Houston, Tex.; November 25–29, National 4-H Club Congress, Chicago, Ill.

Poultry congress echoes

INFORMAL REPORTS were made lately to the USDA Poultry Committee by four of our personnel who attended the Ninth World Poultry Congress held by the World Poultry Science Association at Paris, France, in August. Those who reported were W. D. Termohlen, president of the WPSA since 1949, director of the Poultry Branch, Production and Marketing Administration; Rowena Carpenter, of the same office; Edward Karpoff, Bureau of Agricultural Economics; and Dr. H. R. Bird, nutritionist, Division of Animal Husbandry, Bureau of Animal Industry.

Mr. Termohlen said that 40 countries were officially represented, and 10 others unofficially—none from behind the "iron curtain." About 1,500 delegates attended, including all classes of poultry workers—educational, scientific, and commercial. President Vincent Auriol is himself a pheasant breeder, and he opened the congress with impressive ceremony, and also gave a reception to visitors at the executive palace on the Rue St. Honore.

The group's report was unanimous concerning the general desire evinced by foreign delegates to obtain more U. S. research results to apply in their respective countries. Dr. Bird remarked upon the high quality of the papers on nutritional and physiological subjects, noting especially the high standard of the British poultry research reported. Canada, Great Britain and the U. S. supplied most of such professional papers. The delegates were so eager for new information that it took Dr. Bird about half a day following the reading of his paper to answer questions, particularly on antibiotics.

France has a growing feed industry, Dr. Bird said. In Great Britain the ingredients of feed formulas are limited in their use by government controls, while the use of antibiotics in feeds is not allowed. This last point is not generally true on the continent, however. The outlook for greater use of plant and animal byproducts in making mixed feeds is promising, he believes. Samples of such products were exhibited. Poultry market demands, standards, and practices are vastly different in Europe, according to Mr. Karpoff. He cited the fact that housewives prefer to pick out their birds from a display of plucked fowls of varied quality, rather than to accept another's idea of quality in the form of a graded, dressed and packaged fowl. Market men abroad explained that the lack of refrigeration really strengthens consumer confidence that only fresh products are being offered for sale.

During the sessions on economics and marketing, Rowena Carpenter displayed and discussed the consumer color charts issued by PMA on "Know the Eggs You Buy" and its counterpart for graded dressed poultry. As a result, she brought home many foreign requests for these and other poultry helps from USDA sources.

Hitch-hiking pests

TRAFFIC INSPECTIONS on ships and by rail and airplanes to detect and halt the constantly threatened invasion of this country by destructive agricultural pests and diseases is a function of the Plant Quarantine Division, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. For 1950–51 the foreign traffic subject to such inspection reached an all-time high, while the ability of the bureau to build up an adequate staff to meet the increased traffic has lagged far behind—with few vacancies being filled.

Just to get an idea of the work cut out for these inspectors, note that foreign aircraft arrivals here were 64,500, up 12 percent over the year previous; ship arrivals were 47,600, a new high; vehicles stopped for examination at the Mexican border numbered 10,328,000, up 23 percent; preflight clearances at Hawaii ports at 8,250 were 149 percent greater, while such clearances in Puerto Rico numbering 4,595 were up 23 percent. Planes ready to leave Hawaii and Puerto Rico are treated thoroughly with DDT aerosol sprays.

During this period of heavy traffic, no damaging pests were known to have evaded the scrutiny of the reduced crew inspectors. However, among the public enemies found lurking in cargoes and baggage en route to America (the land of good food and great opportunity), were such items as the citrus black fly, the citrus canker, the oriental fruit fly, the Mediterranean fruit fly, and that slimy pest taken from military equipment shipped from the Orient—the African giant snail, a glutton for vegetation.

USDA offices in Gotham

USDA offices in New York City are grouped under 4 classes—the Agricultural Research Administration, the Commodity Exchange Authority, the Production and Marketing Administration, and the New York Metropolitan Milk Market Administrator. A directory of the officials and office locations has been issued by the Northeast Area Office of Information Services, PMA, 139 Center Street, New York 13, N. Y.

Flare stoppin' bear

URSA MAJOR is the Big Dipper Bear of the starlit skies and he quenches forest fires with welcome rains. Smokey Bear is the Forest Fire Preventin' Bear, who always wears blue jeans and a ranger's hat, and is the trade-mark of the State and Federal Forest Service and the Advertising Council in their constant vigilance to keep us from starting wasteful fires through negligence in the Big Timber. He totes a shovel, not a dipper.

Smokey Bear is almost as familiar to the kids and grown-ups as their old favorite Teddy Bear originated a long time ago by Cartoonist Berryman of the Washington Evening Star. He and his animal chums of the Deep Woods warn vacationists and travelers not to throw away burning matches or lighted cigarettes or leave campfires smouldering along the trails. So Smokey Bear is the "Beware Bear." A special new circular has been printed about Smokey Bear, and USDA exhibits often feature this familiar friend of the forests.

Forest fires have been unusually severe this past season in the National Forests and elsewhere, but the campaign put on by Smokey Bear since he joined the forest rangers during World War II has prevented tremendous losses and saved valuable timber for buildings, recreation, wildlife and watershed conservation. He is probably better known than the great seal of the USDA itself, and has done more for true conservation than any character known to fiction and fancy.

Readers' reminders

On reorganization proposal

Copies of Secretary Brannan's statement before the Senate Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments relative to S. 1149, to reorganize the Department of Agriculture, 25 mimeographed pages, are available from *USDA* editorial office. Ask for No. 2225.

Please remember:

That this office seldom tries to maintain stocks of reference materials longer than 60 days after the date they are listed in *USDA*. Roughly, this means that we usually are unable to fill orders for materials which were listed beyond four successive issues, counting the current one.

Soil science fundamentals

Are you interested in the modern concept of soils and plant life and the principles involved in using soils for cropping? If so, read the new second edition of Fundamentals of Soil Science, by C. E. Millar, professor emeritus of soil science, and Prof. L. M. Turk, soils department, Michigan State College. Our library has a copy, or send $5.50 to the publishers, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 440 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.

Cotton gin fire risks

Good housekeeping is good management and good equipment is a sound investment against the hazards of fire in cotton gins. Fire prevention saves property, profits, and jobs, explains the new Extension Service flyer in red and black ink—PA 142. All cotton State extension offices have them handy.

Dr. Taylor writing book

Dr. H. C. ("Red") Taylor, famous as one of the founders of agricultural economics education in U. S. colleges, and former chief of Bureau of Agricultural Economics, is busy finishing a comprehensive treatise on the history of this movement. He resides at Fort Foote, Md., across the Potomac River from Alexandria.

Help Yearbook yearners

Alfred Stefferud, USDA Yearbook Editor, reports continual requests for back issues since 1936, from libraries, foreign attachés, schools, and county agents. If you have any to spare, please send them to the Office of Information, USDA Administration Building here. We will redistribute them to the needy.

Work for college grads

Division of Employment, Office of Personnel, has issued a mimeograph pamphlet outlining normal employment opportunities and typical work assignments for entrance positions in USDA, including basic information for those recruiting college and university students for work covered by the CSC examination announcement for junior agricultural assistants. It's dated August 1951.

Corn sweeteners

Trends toward more industrial preparation of processed foods has jumped the use of corn products for sweetening from 10 to 15 pounds since prewar times. This is shown in a recent report made by Production and Marketing Administration on the competitive relationships between sugar and corn sweeteners. While corn sweeteners gained fast, sugar consumption remained at about the prewar level of 98 pounds per capita. If you want the full report write the PMA Office of Information Services at the usual Washington address.

More meat for defense series

A general distribution through field offices of the Extension Service and the Bureau of Animal Industry is assured for a new series of supplementary fact sheets in the More Meat for Defense project issued by the BAI Information Office. The ones issued first concern making the most of available cattle feeds; feed poultry efficiently; produce and market clean, fresh eggs; and wormy pigs waste feed. They are intended as "refresher" short courses in time-tried guides for practical stockmen. If unable to get copies locally, apply for limited quantities to BAI's Information Office here. *USDA* editorial office has none.

Read the label while you're able

Food and Drug Administration has put out a dandy treatise on the first essential point in good health when buying food, drugs, and cosmetics. That paramount point for you is to "read the label." False, misleading, and evasive labels are the bane of our existence, and regulatory laws are aimed at correcting these effects of ignorance or abuse. The circular is easy to read and illustrated with appealing sketches. Get it from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for 15 cents or see your local library reference files. None available here.

Brief and choice

Quoting Eleazer again

J. M. Eleazer, Clemson College extension service, writes that crows played a dirty trick on C. P. Key of Lodge, S. C. They pulled up the male rows of hybrid seed corn, but did not molest the rest. "Never heard of that before," he says.

Lannon promoted

John A. Lannon Jr., native of Alexandria, Va., is the new Deputy Director of the Northeast Region of Production and Marketing Administration field service. He will assist Ely Wickham in handling work in a 10-State area. Since 1946, Mr. Lannon has been secretary to the Virginia State PMA Committee.

Import controls direction

Production and Marketing Administration's import controls administration has been shifted to the Office of Requirements and Allocations, from the Fats and Oil Branch. The transfer was made to integrate PMA facilities under the revised Defense Production Act of 1950 (as amended) with other export and import responsibilities already assigned to OR&A.

Research endorsed

At the end of the September meeting here of the chairmen of advisory committees for the Research and Marketing Act, they drew up some recommendations. These called for expanded financial support for research, a stepped-up program for distributing results of research, the advisability of continuing basic research, and that research on food production and distribution is a paramount defense activity.

Nutrition committee

Secretary Brannan has named a USDA nutrition committee to help facilitate the discharge of our responsibilities for the Nation's food production, processing, and distribution. Its membership: Hazel K. Stiebeling, Chief HNHE-ARA; E. C. Elting, Associate Chief, OES-ARA; Raub Snyder, Assistant Administrator for Production, PMA; L. K. Trainer, Director, Food Distribution Branch, PMA; M. L. Wilson, Director of Extension; and F. F. Elliott, Associate Chief, BAE.

Budget progress

October routine calls for the agricultural examiners of the Estimates Division of the Budget Bureau to hold off-the-record personal hearings, often in the field, with officials of USDA bureaus and agencies. This gives them a chance to discuss and justify proposed items included in the USDA budget estimates. Soon after this period of 4 to 5 weeks, the examiners make their recommendations to the Director of the Budget Bureau, who lays matters before the Review Board prior to taking up the budget with the White House.

Agricultural capacity reports

State reports on the current analysis of agricultural production capacity, relating to attainable production levels for 1955 and the needs and obstacles to overcome, are scheduled to be transmitted by cooperating land-grant college authorities to Washington for summarization by November 1. This joint USDA and land-grant college group is headed by Sherman E. Johnson, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The Washington working group will summarize the data in the State reports and derive National totals of potential capacity by commodities and potential needs of production resources and facilities. Their assignment calls for a final summary on or about December 1 for committee review.

Navy job for SCS

In response to a request from the U. S. Navy, 26 conservation surveyors from the Soil Conservation Service have completed physical land surveys on 37 naval airfields and other shore installations in 16 States. On the basis of this work, recommendations on many practical points will be available to the Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks, and their appreciation was expressed in a note to SCS.

In praise of parasites

Widespread distribution of the parasites of the European corn borer seems to be doing a good job afield, according to the latest reports from cooperating State entomologists made to Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. These natural control agents have become so remarkably effective in the past 2 years that in some places an average of from 40 to 60 percent of the borers have been reported killed by these parasitic flies. Actually, reports from Iowa and Illinois say that a kill of 100 percent occurred this year.

Word from Dallas Burch

Dallas S. Burch and Mrs. Burch, long-time associates of the Bureau of Animal Industry, reside at 900 Covington Road, Los Altos, Calif. Mr. Burch as contributor to a veterinary guidebook published by Windsor Press, Chicago, has said some good words for various basic USDA projects in animal husbandry, now circulated as a text to about 200,000 school students and others. He is also writing for the Funk & Wagnall international yearbook.

Personnel cuts made

Owing to a sizeable cut for personal services, which abolished many of the functions of the Divisions of Training and of Personnel Relations and Safety, the Office of Personnel has set up another division to combine the duties previously carried in training and employee relations. The necessary reductions were also applied to other divisions and the Director's office. The new division will be called the Division of Employee Performance and Development.

Alaska scientists meet

The newly created Alaskan Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science had its initial meeting at Mount McKinley National Park, September 4–8, 1951. Dr. Keith F. Mather, Harvard University, president of AAAS, and Governor Ernest Gruening of Alaska, opened the sessions, at which 88 professional papers were presented. There are three branches of the association there—the Cook Island, the Arctic, and the Southwest. Don Irwin (Kansas) director of the Alaska Agricultural Experiment Station, held the chair at the constitutional meeting and was on the organization committee. Visitors from USDA present at the sessions were Dr. O. E. Reed, Chief of the Bureau of Dairy Industry, Stanley W. Cosby, Soil Conservation Service, Portland, Oreg., and George Phillips, Office of the Secretary.

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NOV 15 ... AGRICULTURE

USDA
Employee News Bulletin
FOR NOVEMBER 7, 1951

Antibiotic decade

THIS YEAR marks the first decade of antibiotic research in America. It goes back to the summer of 1941, when Prof. H. W. Florey and Dr. N. G. Heatley of Oxford University came to America to extend and improve their study of antibacterial substances produced by microorganisms. Their coming here to join forces with USDA scientists at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory at Peoria, Ill., merged the two pioneer streams of antibiotic research—that of Dr. Alexander Fleming, British discoverer of penicillin; and the American workers, Robert Weindling of California, Rene Dubois of Rockefeller Institute, Dr. S. A. Waksman of Rutgers University, discoverer of streptomycin, Dr. B. M. Duggar, aureomycin developer, and others.

This remarkable series of scientific achievements in the realm of antibiotic drugs which have revolutionized medical and surgical practice, was fittingly portrayed in an address by Dr. Kenneth B. Raper, Fermentation Division, NRRL at Peoria, to the Mycological Society of America, September 10, 1951. It is one of the most complete outlines of these events on record.

At present more than 300 separatly described antibiotics are known—10 years ago not more than half a dozen. Only five of the 300 substances are major drugs today—penicillin, streptomycin, chloromycetin, aureomycin and terramycin. Six or seven others are potentially important, while the rest either have low levels of activity or prove too toxic for safety. "Thanks to successive painstaking studies by USDA scientists and such outstanding contributors as H. W. Peterson, Marvin Johnson and coworkers at the University of Wisconsin, plus commercial skill and zeal, penicillin output last summer attained 25 to 30 trillion units per month, Dr. Raper stated. It remains the least toxic and the most generally useful of the antibiotic drugs. Its rapid production traces partly to culture isolated by USDA mycologists from a moldy cantaloupe at Peoria, together with successively higher yielding strains developed as induced mutations at the Carnegie Institute and at the University of Wisconsin.

Teamwork of the highest order has made such great advances possible. Dr. Raper says that our experts in mycology, physical chemistry, clinical medicine, and chemical engineering have exchanged ideas and shared the fruits of their findings. More than 18,000 research papers on this subject have appeared since 1940.

Penicillin had a net wholesale bulk worth of $67,000,000 during the first half of 1951—much more as packaged drugs, of course. The annual estimated value of antibiotic feed supplements may reach $25,000,000. Capitalization of firms making penicillin in America represents about $200,000,000. Lower prices for this drug are resulting from better and faster systems of production. Yet even now at $300 a pound in bulk it seems expensive, although this amount would fill 6,000 vials with conventional doses. Antibiotics today exceed or generally rank with hormones, vitamins and sulphonamides in volume of sales, it is pointed out.

Early workers with penicillin at the USDA laboratory in Peoria reached their original objectives. These were obtained by discovery of corn steep liquor and lactose as an improved source of nutrition for the molds, by developing a deep tank process of manufacture, and by finding new strains capable of producing higher yields of drugs. Such findings paved the way for similar successes in rapid development of fermentation processes for making streptomycin, chloromycetin, aureomycin, and terramycin, the author concludes.

For further facts on antibiotics, see USDA Year Book for 1950–51, "Crops in Peace and War."

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We solemnly swear

UNUSUAL INTEREST is shown these days in the affidavits which Government employees make when they are sworn into office. When the President of the United States takes the oath, he repeats a short statement contained in the Constitution. It is not so easy for a newly appointed typist or file clerk. Government employees must swear to a number of things, in case you wish to recall them:

A. Oath of Office

I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter, SO HELP ME GOD.

B. Affidavit as to Subversive Activity and Affiliation

I am not a Communist or Fascist. I do not advocate nor am I a member of any organization that advocates the overthrow of the Government of the United States by force or violence or other unconstitutional means or seeking by force or violence to deny other persons their rights under the Constitution of the United States. I do further swear (or affirm) I will not so advocate, nor will I become a member of such organization during the period that I am an employee of the Federal Government.

C. Affidavit as to Striking against the Federal Government

I am not engaged in any strike against the Government of the United States and that I will not so engage while an employee of the Government of the United States; that I am not a member of an organization of Government employees that asserts the right to strike against the Government of the United States, and that I will not, while a Government employee, become a member of such an organization.

D. Affidavit as to Purchase and Sale of Office

I have not paid, or offered or promised to pay, any money or other thing of value to any person, firm or corporation for the use of influence to procure my appointment.

Employees get marketing awards

Awards for outstanding work in marketing research during 1950 were given to a group of USDA workers lately by the Washington chapter of the American Marketing Association. First prize award went to C. J. Otten, A. L. Owen, N. G. Paulhus, S. D. Clark, and A. B. Lowstuter, for their study of the Boston wholesale produce market. Honorable mention awards went to a Farm Credit Administration study on the coordinating of the marketing of Florida citrus fruit, by George H. Goldsborough, now with Sugar Branch of Production and Marketing Administration; and a report on the prepackaging of apples at points of production, by Earl W. Carlsen, State of Washington, and Donald R. Stokes, now with Fruit and Vegetable Branch of PMA. In his remarks on that occasion, Secretary Brannan said that "this is a most refreshing note in a public atmosphere wherein the customary gestures toward those in public service seems to consist largely of avalanches of criticism and ridicule."

For superior work

PAY INCREASES for Superior Accomplishment were recently awarded employees, as indicated below:

Farm Credit Administration: VINCENT A. JOHNSON, Accountant, Washington, D. C.

Farmers Home Administration: ELEANOR L. ANDERSON, Clerk-Typist, Ontario, Oreg.; NEAL G. PRESTON, Agricultural Engineer, Portland, Oreg.

Forest Service: JOHN W. WOOD, Forester (General), South Carolina National Forests.

Production and Marketing Administration: ADALINE T. WHEELER, Clerk (Typing), Fresno, Calif.

Soil Conservation Service: MELVIN R. CARLSON, Soil Conservationist, St. Maries, Idaho; JOHN T. CRADDOCK, Agricultural Aid, Gretna, Va.; LULA D. FORREST, Clerk-Stenographer, Raleigh, N. C., LAURENCE D. GIESE, Soil Scientist, Yakima, Wash.; LEONARD R. LEONI, Soil Conservationist, Los Banos, Calif.: EDGAR E. LUECKE, Engineering Aid (General), Owatonna, Minn.; KENNETH A. MAYNARD, Soil Conservation Aid, Mayfield, Ky.; ROBERT S. MILLER, Civil Engineer, Los Banos, Calif; FLOYD NIMMO, Supervisory Engineering Aid (General), Sioux City, Iowa; THEODORE W. THORSON, Soil Conservationist, Beach, N. Dak.

Back from Brazil

RETURNED FROM Brazil, where he made extensive observations on nematodes and their injury to crops, Dr. G. Steiner, head of the Division of Nematology, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, spent nearly 4 months in the great coffee State of Sao Paulo. Much agricultural research is carried on at Sao Paulo's 17 experiment stations. It has one of the largest farm cooperatives in the world—Cooperative Cotia, consisting of 95,000 members, mostly small growers. This cooperative provided part of the funds to get Dr. Steiner's help in the control of this pest, so costly to growers of many cash crops.

"The coffee crop," says Dr. Steiner, "is fairly free of nematodes. The Brazilians have bred superior varieties, many of them at the Instituto Agronomico at Campinas, oldest agricultural experiment institute in Latin America. This organization drew on a special research fund to assist in making the nematode survey." Dr. Steiner speaks with satisfaction of the welcome and cooperation accorded him by the Brazilian people. He continues:

Plant-attacking nematodes are plentiful in Brazil. The list includes such world-wide pests as the root-knot, cyst-forming, spiral, and dagger nematode, and numbers of other forms. Control of these pests must be through preventive measures, crop rotations, and soil treatment with chemicals. There are also an abundance of predatory nematodes that devour other types, including those attacking plants. However, activities of those beneficial ones are not enough for effective control of the real pests.

Promotion from within

HIGHLIGHTS OF the promotion-from-within employment plan used by Rural Electrification Administration through four different administrators' terms are explained by John W. Asher, Jr., Chief of REA's Personnel Division in Issue No. 36 of "Personnel Administration," distributed in the Department. The big thing about this plan is that REA normally "advertises" practically all its vacancies to the whole staff before turning elsewhere for likely candidates. The success derived from such a plan depends on its fair and honest administration, Asher has found.

There are four general points to it: (1) a published statement of policy jointly developed and refined by management and employees; (2) fair administration by acquainting employees in advance when a known candidate is available, together with interviews with perhaps three top applicants; (3) selection of the best candidate in a workable area of competition before going outside—but not hesitating to bring in "new blood" when advisable; (4) a strong in-service training plan to develop promotional material.

Mr. Asher finds that this tends to strengthen staff morale, makes for a decreased turnover, discovers unknown ability, gets vacancies filled more promptly, broadens employee opportunities, and keeps the staff on their toes about REA functions and responsibilities. He admits to a few drawbacks and liabilities to watch closely. The organization must not get stereotyped and "inbred," and the plan doesn't always work well in an emergency; besides the difficulty of operating the plan in a staff scattered from Alaska to the Virgin Islands. One must also guard against a defeatist attitude by employees who expect promotion on seniority alone. The Civil Service Inspection Services has complimented REA's promotion procedure and the USDA Employee Council recommended its principles for a year's trial in all Department agencies.

Nine more to Point IV

Recent assignments to Point IV technical cooperation work abroad include Harry Wise, PMA agricultural economist, and Donald R. Stevenson, Virginia forester, to Bolivia; Allen F. Kinnison, SCS horticulturist, to El Salvador; Dr. Paul M. Phillips, Kentucky agronomist, to Nicaragua; Dr. Luke R. Sinclair, California veterinarian, to Peru; Henry S. Kernan, consulting forester, and Ralph B. Littlefield, New Hampshire extension man, to Iran; Ambrose B. Lewis, agricultural engineer, and S. J. McCorvey, Tuskegee Institute extension man, to Liberia. If you want more details, write the Editor of *USDA*, and ask for No. 2371.

Said on the side

NOT HAVING the right answer wasn't because we quit thinking down there in our valley. Most of us had lots of time to think, and we put in some good licks at it, while doing chores and field work and on the way to school—and yes, even in school itself. Our textbooks and tattered geographies, that told us about faraway places we never expected to see, didn't stop us from wondering about the common things around us. I remember how we'd sit there hunched up and peering over the edges of our study books at the sunshine and the gaudy tints in the forest, and the fall blossoms nodding in the weedy pasture that was right close up to our schoolyard. Listening to the katydids and just thinking.

Everything we saw out there and looked at along the road made us wonder and think. We pestered the home folks and the teacher for the right answers, and once in a blue moon we were satisfied—but mostly we were not, and our wondering got to be a habit. We gazed out there and asked ourselves some queer questions:

Why did most of the cows in the pasture keep their heads turned in the same direction while grazing? What was the reason for the fairy rings we found marked off in the wild grass? What caused those tough, woody, white growths like shelves at the bases of the trees? Why did our dog turn around three or four times before he laid down to sleep? Why were there so many little toads hopping around right after a rain? Why did so many sandburrs grow in a country where shoes were so scarce? What caused the sun dogs? Why did the maples run sappy in March and the spruce get gummy in August? What made all the lacy, filmy webs floating in the air in summer without any spiders around? Was it true that you could forecast winter weather by the length of the brown bands on woolly-bear caterpillars?

Lots of fellows in our valley, and outside of it probably, get the name of being an idiot or a zaney because they keep on wondering about such ordinary, small, unimportant things they see every day; and the more they grope and ponder and ask people, and get squelched, the worse their fever gets to find out the truth—if there is any. I presume that ignorance that seeks light is far ahead of a lot of learning that overlooks common things. I guess you just have to be childish and not be ashamed about it, or you won't learn much about the little things that make the world so big.

Timber like tinder

"BAD FIRE season" is the laconic summary made by Forest Service concerning the field office reports of forest fires during the period from January through August. In that interval there were 8,762, separate forest fires which burned 307,545 acres of woodland, compared to 7,332 fires covering 233,357 acres in 1950. As usual, more than half of the fires were caused by human carelessness or accident, but the increased number of serious forest conflagrations this season is generally thought to be caused by lumbering and railroad operations rather than because of neglectful practices by the public.

One of the worst 1951 fires was that which raged in the Olympic National Forest in Washington during late September. Thirteen hundred State and Federal Forest Service men and all the mechanical equipment available were at the scene for many days. In 1 day this fire traveled 17 miles and destroyed several buildings in the village of Forks, Wash. Backfire saved the rest of the town. Forests of Arizona, New Mexico, and California also suffered more than usual severe burns of national forest tracts. Other stubborn blazes found hard to control this season were those on the edge of the Willamette National Forest in Oregon and the Feather River Canyon fire on the Plumas National Forest, California.

Index invented

THINKING THAT a relatively simple relationship exists between prices received by farmers and the year-to-year changes in farm land values, Louis H. Bean, economist in Office of the Secretary, tried his experienced hand at working out a graphic picture of this relationship.

He charted the levels of prices received by farmers from the usual index worked out by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, both current and for a few years past. This was laid alongside the curve showing the deviations and ups and downs of farm real estate values. After allowing for the unusually heavy mortgage pressure on farm land values in the late 1920's, these curves for the most part run together like twins, except for 1920 and 1951. In 1920 land values rose above the 1912 to 1919 relation to commodity prices and again this year they have advanced beyond the relation to commodity prices that prevailed between 1940 and 1950. The "excess" is about 20 points, or about 10 percent.

This similarity with 1920 does not, of course, mean that a decline is in prospect in the near future. As a matter of fact the general worry right now is whether the danger of another rise in land prices can be avoided in view of the mounting defense program. Mr. Bean suggests that this divergent movement now apparent between the current and recent levels of prices received by farmers and the quoted values of land may be largely attributed to urban buyers and speculators anticipating and hedging against a further rise in commodity prices.

Prices received by farmers as of September 15 averaged 291 with 1910–14 prices as 100. If they stay at this level or around 300 for a year or two, Bean's analysis would suggest that land values might remain about where they are; but if the present "gap" means that the relation of land to commodity prices has changed since World War II, they may continue to go up some more.

Brief and choice

Mailed too late

Our Crop Reporting Board actually received a crop reporter's printed official return envelope last month addressed to "Jeremiah M. Rusk, Secretary of Agriculture, USDA." Secretary Rusk hasn't been around here lately. He was appointed secretary by President Harrison in 1889.

Wilcox co-op bank director

Experienced in cooperative marketing affairs since 1929, and presently assistant manager of the California Fruit Growers' Exchange, F. R. Wilcox, graduate of Utah Agricultural College, is the newly named director of the Central Bank for Cooperatives. His appointment by Gov. I. W. Duggan of Farm Credit Administration runs for 3 years, ending September 11, 1954.

Zunis to the rescue

The administrative bulletin from Region 3, U. S. Forest Service, tells how well the Zuni Indians performed as fire-fighting crews in the Arrowhead Lake fire in California. Working on slopes up to 45° in steepness, they never failed to hold the line, the report says. Moreover, they relished the fancy food served by California commissary people, from frozen turkey to citrus juices, plus a television show viewed by those on the stand-by duty line.

Paper from sugarcane

Sugarcane bagasse, fibrous material left after the juice is extracted, offers promise as a raw material for making newsprint paper. Preliminary tests have been conducted at the U. S. Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wis. The new pulping process, based on the method devised by Joaquin De La Roza, New York City, extracts the residual sugar contained in the bagasse pith cells before the mixture is pulped. Bagasse is now used for making structural and insulating fiber board. If successful, it would possibly open a big new field for paper making in the sugarcane regions of this country and Cuba.

Graduate School booming

A total of 3,262 students enrolled for the fall semester of the USDA Graduate School. This is an increase of 24 percent over the 2,629 students who enrolled a year ago at this time. More classes are open also, 157 this semester against 132 in 1950. The first semester ends on January 11, 1952.

Wins title contest

In a membership contest conducted by the American Women in Radio and Television to get a good title for their new publication, the name "AWRT News and Views" was chosen. The winning title was suggested by Helendeen H. Dodderidge, Information Services, Production and Marketing Administration.

Vacancies defined

Under the Jensen amendment, a vacancy is defined by the Solicitor's Office as one created by movement within USDA as well as separation from it. Positions reasonably considered to be a part of the organization which were vacant on July 1 are not subject to the application of the amendment. Pursuant to the Comptroller General's decision, vacancies occurring between July 1 and August 31 are not to be counted unless they remain vacant on August 31.

Maurice A. Downes

Maurice A. Downes, Landover Hills, Md., died on October 15 at the age of 62 years. Mr. Downes first came to work in USDA on July 1, 1907, as an assistant in the Bureau of Plant Industry. After serving there for about 10 years, Mr. Downes worked for the United States Fuel Administration and the War Department from 1917 to 1919, and then entered private employment. He returned to USDA in the Office of Information in August 1922 and served continuously therein until his last day of work, July 27, 1951.

Ray Turner retires

Away back in 1915 when 4–H clubs were very young and scarcely known, Ray Turner—newly retired—began his notable career. He served as first county club agent in Hillsdale County, Mich., as State club leader, one of the organizers of the National 4–H Club Camp, and traveling missionary for this great youth movement, mostly in the Central States. One of the buildings at the National 4–H Club Center, Chevy Chase, Md., is named in Ray's honor. Mr. and Mrs. Turner will live in Evart, Mich.

Dr. Hardy retires

Effective September 30, Dr. J. I. Hardy, widely known fiber technologist and inventor of fiber testing and measuring devices with five United States patents on useful instruments, retired from the Bureau of Animal Industry. He is a native of Massachusetts, and earned his B. S. degree from Rhode Island State College, and M. S. degree at University of Tennessee, and a Ph. D. from University of Missouri. He worked for USDA at two separate times, the latest period being from 1923 to date of retirement. Author of many scientific reports, and a recognized authority in his field, Dr. Hardy will open his own laboratory at Lemont, near State College, Penn.

Antibiotics in feeds

Antibiotic supplement is stimulating to growth and production processes but probably not to reproduction functions, according to USDA's Dr. H. R. Bird, Bureau of Animal Industry. It is now used in 100 percent of the commercial broiler feeds at an added cost of only 80 cents per ton for the minute quantities necessary. Dr. Bird estimates its use with broilers makes possible the output of 150 million more pounds of chicken meat annually.

State office consolidations

As of October 1, Plant and Operations reported 10 States have completed actual consolidation of State offices as directed by the Secretary, the latest ones being Ohio and Vermont. Consolidation of county offices doing USDA work is about 41 percent complete.

The how of the hoe

W. W. Dickinson of Arkansas was sent to Kundzu, Afghanistan, as an agricultural worker for Food and Agriculture Organization. "These people have no idea of basic farm principles, so send me a hoe," he wrote back home. Hearing of this request, the Chipmunk Coulee 4–H Club of Stoddard, Wis., took up a collection and sent Dickinson a $4.50 garden hoe. From this model, the Afghanistan Government has ordered 30,000 hoes just like it for their farmers to use. Sending tractors would have been futile.

Blood donors increase

According to our Employee Health Division, there were 510 contributions of blood for the Red Cross services made by USDA employees in Washington during the first 6 months of 1951. For the 3 months from July 1 to October 1, with a bloodmobile at the service of employees, there were 333 contributions. For Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md., the same respective figures were 77 and 115 contributions. This higher average monthly rate is in contrast to the usual experience during summer vacation, when the blood donations decline sharply.

Brannan congratulates

Winners in the Southwide Soil Conservation Contest originated by Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert, Log Cabin, Ga., were congratulated by Secretary Brannan in letters sent to these Negro farmers whose work was thus recognized: Southwide and South Carolina winner, Theodore Roddy, R. 1, Catawba, S. C.; and State winners as follows: Edgar Smith, Walker Springs, Ala.; Alfonse Toney, Springfield, Ark.; McKinley Smith, R. 3, Tallahassee, Fla.; Bishop Turner, Hilton, Ga.; Cliff Wilson, Bovina, Miss.; J. D. Robinson, R. 1, Monroe, N. C.; A. C. Boone, R. 2, Haskell, Okla.; J. R. Crawford, R. 1, Jackson, Tenn.; Herman Crawford, R. 6, Marshall, Tex.; and Bruce Green, Disputants, Va.

Dr. Work joins FAO

Effective October 1, 1951, Dr. S. H. Work is representing the agriculture division of Food and Agriculture Organization in the North American Regional Office, 1344 Connecticut Avenue NW., Washington, D. C. Here he is responsible for numerous official FAO contacts with USDA, the land-grant colleges, certain United Nations special functions, and the Organization of American States, and will work with foreign technical programs, particularly in animal production lines. Since 1947, Dr. Work has been associated with our Office of Experiment Stations in the subject-matter field of animal husbandry, after engaging in similar work in Hawaii, and as director of the cooperative USDA-Nicaragua experiment station. He was also examiner of Federal-grant projects for OES. He graduated from Ohio State University in 1925 and got his Ph. D. degree in animal nutrition at Cornell University in 1934.

Weed research grows like—a weed

In addition to its research on weed eradication, Bureau of Plant Industry's Division of Weed Investigations seeks to assist weed researchers in keeping abreast of this growing agricultural activity by publishing a record of all current publications in the field. Last January, as a result of earlier requests from various weed control conferences, the Division published the "Bibliography of Weed Investigations for 1950." It is a 100-page mimeograph containing about 2,000 citations and has been in demand by public and private weed research men throughout the world. Future editions of this bibliography will be issued oftener than once a year and these will be smaller and more useful. A second volume issued recently contained 41 pages. The bibliography is available without cost to anyone requesting it. However, reprints of articles listed cannot be obtained from this source.

"Abracadabra" for abaca

"Now you see it and now you don't"—that's what happened to large fields of abaca plants infected with mosaic disease in the Philippine Islands. No magician waved a wand, but Dr. Otto Reinking, formerly plant pathologist at Cornell University, went there early in 1950 under a Point IV mission, and soon found that the Filipino farmer's custom of interplanting corn with abaca fiber plants was the chief reason for the rapid spread of mosaic. Corn is host to both the virus itself and the aphid which carries it. In regular United States style, a general educational effort was begun, plus funds provided by the Philippine Government for further research. Many areas are becoming free of mosaic, and Dr. Reinking was congratulated for his achievement by Ambassador Myron M. Cowen.

Readers' Reminders

Garden Committee for 1952

The first meeting of the National Garden and Home Food Preservation Committee was held November 5–6, with its membership for 1952 named by Secretary Brannan. If you want the full list write to Editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2405.

850,000 farms minus electricity

Rural Electrification Administration's latest estimate gives 84 percent of the country's farms as provided with electric current. This annual estimate is required by law. The 16 percent of the farms without electricity number 858,000. For State breakdown, write Editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2406.

Funnies on fertilizers

Featuring a new imaginary character, Prosper Plenty, symbolic messenger for chemical fertilizers, a new "comic" booklet called "The Conquest of Hunger" is ready for distribution to schools, rural clubs and such groups by National Fertilizer Association, 616 Investment Building, Washington 5, D. C.

Federal hobby circulars

Government Printing Office's Superintendent of Documents has a special folder listing numerous regular publications which aid hobbyists. Included, for example, are USDA's publications on hamsters, growing flowering plants, rose culture, goose raising, and "family fare," besides circulars from other agencies on woodworking, small boat operation, care of hand tools, and many more.

New farm house loan limits

Revised terms of credit applicable to farm dwellings in all farm housing or farm ownership loans made by Farmers Home Administration bring the maximum amounts for such loans into compliance with the terms of the defense housing act. In 2 years the farm housing credit has taken care of 9,000 farmers for about 41 million dollars, and in the farm ownership loan system's 14 years of existence 70,000 farm families have secured 422 million dollars in loans. If you want the new loan limits, write the Editor of *USDA* for No. 2414.

Apple-appeal

Thirty or more old and new recipes for using the apple, with the most modern, dependable directions, are found in USDA Leaflet 312, which ca nbe had free from Office of Information here.

Water from the land

A recent statement by the United States Forest Service suggests how forest and range lands can be managed to yield more water for power, irrigation and domestic use. If interested, write the Editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2378.

New circular on Federal land banks

"Your Federal Land Bank System and How It Operates" is a valuable reference circular for employees. It describes the organization and operation of the federal land bank system thoroughly. It is being distributed by the Information and Extension Office of FCA, Room 4347 South Building, Washington 25, D. C.

School lunch fund apportioned

Funds provided by Congress for this year's National School Lunch Program, totaling $64,625,000, have been apportioned to the various States and Territories by Production and Marketing Administration. Last year almost 1.4 billion meals were served to 8.5 million children at 54,000 participating schools. Should you want the State breakdown of divided funds, write the Editor of *USDA*, asking for No. 2376.

Outlook conference issues

Publications distributed during the Agricultural Outlook Conference, October 29–November 2 included rural family living charts with text, by Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics; the agricultural outlook chart book and food consumption facts, by Bureau of Agricultural Economics; and foreign agricultural outlook charts for 1952, by Foreign Agricultural Relations. USDA maintains no files of these.

Southern rural housing

The Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics and Office of Experiment Stations report that the Southern Rural Housing Survey, the third in a series of 4 regional studies conducted by 29 agricultural experiment stations in cooperation with the Bureau, has been completed. The manuscript for the regional report is being printed by the Georgia Experiment Station. The seven States participating in the Southern survey are Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. The report describes the kind of houses Southern farmers want on the basis of the survey. Similar reports have already been released for the Northeast and the North Central regions. The former is contained in a 458-page book, Farm Housing in the Northeast, published by the Cornell University Press, Ithaca, N. Y. North Central Regional Publication No. 20 is published by the Agricultural Experiment Station, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

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USDA
Employee News Bulletin

FOR NOVEMBER 21, 1951

Defense duties

BROAD AUTHORITY under the Defense Production Act in regard to food, fiber, farm equipment and fertilizers is vested with USDA and the Secretary of Agriculture. This authority includes such functions as allocations and priority, requisitioning, certifying loans for agricultural facilities, service as a claimant agency for controlled materials for farmers and rural power systems and consultant on manpower in farm and food industries. USDA serves also as the source of most all official statistics and estimates covering current and prospective production and supplies of farm products, agricultural prices and income, and farm employment and wages. In cooperation with the land-grant colleges, USDA is completing a study of farm production capacities and the requirements for materials and facilities to maintain adequate rates of output during the defense mobilization period.

As of September 1, 1951, the equivalent of 575 full-time employees of USDA were paid from funds appropriated to carry out the Defense Production Act, as amended. Although there are no employees serving on a "without compensation" basis, various agencies are devoting activities supported by regularly appropriated agency funds to work that contributes very materially to the defense effort—and to farm efficiency.

In its day-to-day routine, USDA under specific authority accorded by Executive Orders 10161 and 10200, determines overall food and raw farm material requirements for all uses, plus reserves, and then sets production goals in line with such requirements. This aids farmers, allied processing, storage, and tranportation agencies to plan ahead. Helping farmers to find ways to meet the requirements for their services is largely up to the Agricultural Mobilization Committees now operating in every State and county of the Nation. Incentives for new production are accompanied by programs to conserve food supplies already produced in storage. The fundamentals of a sound agricultural conservation system to enlarge and maintain the country's primary asset—the soil—are followed.

Not only is the soil involved in USDA defense duties, but health and welfare of the farm family is considered the most vital of all. To this end, the maintenance of sound long- and short-time credit systems for capital investment and production are legally authorized functions of USDA, including assistance in economic marketing of farm products through cooperatives. Finally, there are loans made to farm communities for installation of rural electric and telephone facilities. These are essential bulwarks of agriculture in this machine age. Cooperation with State health units, the American Red Cross, the U. S. Public Health Service, and the Federal Civil Defense Administration broadens the work of USDA agencies in rural living.

Hence, new special laws combine with others previously enacted to enable us to make a comprehensive attack on many fronts in preparing agriculture and its allied industries to meet unusual strains in accomplishing the job assigned.

CHECKS FOR PAY INCREASE

On October 24, 1951, President Truman signed a bill to increase the basic rates of compensation of classified employees of the Federal Government retroactive to July 8, 1951. The payment of this retroactive salary increase presented a tremendous task in the Department's fiscal offices in the computation and preparation of supplemental payrolls. Most agency employees received their checks sometime during the week following the signing of the bill. In only a few instances was it physically impossible to process the payrolls that soon. The payroll units are to be congratulated for their fine service, and T. Roy Reid, Director of Personnel, and Ralph S. Roberts, Director of Finance, express appreciation to employees in all the payrolling units throughout the Department, whose efforts and cooperation made possible an early delivery of these checks.

ECA appreciates it

GRATITUDE for the contribution to agricultural information work in Europe furnished by State editors of extension and experiment stations has been sent to USDA authorities by E. N. Holmgreen, Director of Food and Agriculture Division of the Economic Cooperation Administration—soon to be merged with the new Mutual Security Agency. In expressing gratitude for such assistance, Mr. Holmgreen highlighted progress made to date.

In his letter to Director M. L. Wilson, Cooperative Extension Service, Mr. Holmgreen stated that after long efforts and slow progress, significant results are now apparent in attempts to strengthen Europe's agricultural information service to farmers. He cited the formation a year ago of the Federal Information Institute at Frankfort, Germany—the first step taken there toward a centralized pool of practical information for distribution direct to farmers. Our extension editors who have seen the popular pamphlets, movies and other material thus prepared testify to its exceptionally high quality. This, he pointed out, is in contrast to the previous general reluctance of German scientists to release their achievements for popular distribution.

He cited the adaptation by the French Ministry of Agriculture of a Wisconsin Extension bulletin on mastitis, plus Austria's use of North Carolina farm publications. Mr. Holmgreen also praises the successful use of farm-service type radio programs on the U. S. pattern now common in Germany, Greece, and Turkey, as well as scores of films and film strips issued by State extension offices. He does not overlook the patient help given to technical assistance teams from ECA countries who visited the State colleges of agriculture here. These men were "deeply moved," by the friendly, personal attention they received from our many agricultural research and extension staffs. The letter concludes with grateful acknowledgement of Extension Service's aid in supplying top personnel to help organize informational services in ECA countries. "Europe must get effective information machinery developed as quickly as possible with the help of men of long experience. This is necessary because of population pressures there, attempted incitement of social unrest, and grave problems left over from World War II," declared Mr. Holmgreen.

GIVE BLOOD TO SAVE LIFE

974032°—51

Continents cooperate

LATIN AMERICAN extension workers visited President Truman at the White House October 18 to highlight their participation in a 2½-month training institute sponsored by New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts under the Point IV program. After 9 weeks in New Mexico, they were in Washington for their final week before returning to their home countries. President Truman personally greeted each one of them. With a world map before him, he explained how the Point IV program of technical cooperation is helping people in other lands to increase their productive efficiency. Secretary of State Acheson, Secretary Brannan, Administrator Henry G. Bennett of State Department's Technical Cooperation Administration, and Dean R. A. Nichols of New Mexico A&M were also in the party.

At a luncheon given in honor of the Latin American group by the Institute of Inter-American Affairs, Secretary Brannan praised the Land-Grant colleges for their contributions to the Point IV program. He added that: "During your study in the United States, you have seen that agricultural progress does not come about suddenly or automatically. From the small beginning of the Land-Grant College system, it has taken almost 90 years for the United States to reach its present stage of agricultural development. You have seen that much of this progress stems from the three-sided approach which is now such a tradition in our agricultural education: research, extension, and instruction."

The 38 Latin Americans represented Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela. The total attendance at New Mexico was 45 workers from 14 countries, but delegations from Haiti and Ecuador returned home after their 9 weeks in New Mexico. Most of the participants were workers in agricultural programs carried on in cooperation with USDA or IIAA under the Point IV program administered by TCA. The institute was aimed at helping them develop programs in their own countries for extending the practical use of improved agricultural practices and research developments. It is the first Point IV project under which an American college has undertaken to give resident training to a large non-English speaking group in the principles and practices of agricultural extension.

The institute group was in New Mexico from August 1 to October 5. During the first 2½ weeks, the participants were on the New Mexico A&M campus. They then spent 6 weeks in rural counties working and observing alongside county extension workers. Most of them worked in the northern Spanish-speaking counties under the supervision of Spanish-speaking county agents. They spent a week en route to Washington by bus, and they visited Oklahoma A&M. College, the University of Arkansas, the University of Tennessee, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute on the way.

Farm folks dwindle

FARM CENSUS records from 1950, as analyzed by Bureau of Agricultural Economics specialists, put the U. S. farm population at 23 577,000. This puts the figure back to about the same as it was 50 years ago, in comparison to a nonfarm population level that stands 75 millions greater than it was in 1900. Between 1940 and 1950, our farm population sank about 5 million. Changes in relative efficiency of farm workers with consequent greater production by fewer workers is probably the chief reason for this situation.

Where do ex-farmers go? Most of them move into small towns or suburban zones. As for the youngsters, from one-third to one-half of those born on our farms move to urban centers, with more girls than boys finding city life opportunities attractive. Along with this shift of native farm folks to urban communities and urban jobs, rural birth rates have declined. Farm women today are said to have only about 51 percent more children than urban women, but 50 years ago they gave birth to 77 percent more children than did their city sisters. Meanwhile, the excess exodus of the farm girls seems to leave the remaining boys short of enough girls, which may mean more bachelors and a decline in newly established rural homes.

It is pointed out by BAE observers that large numbers of farmers have converted themselves to part-time business and factory workers, while there are more business and industrial people taking up part-time farming. From a social viewpoint, it is believed that such population trends away from farms is no cause for worry. In every technically advanced country, young persons leave farms to find employment where the need is greater. If life is made up of going where the best chances exist, then, the theory holds, this movement is both natural and sensible.

Our workers' units

WHEN WE SEE "U. S. Department of Agriculture," our minds immediately center on its origin, structure, functions, and programs for the good of the farmer and the food industry, also its international relations. Little or no thought is given to the fact that in the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C., and Beltsville, Md., a large number of bureaus have organized facilities for their employees to further their education, physical development, and to aid in planning their leisure time by participation in social and recreational activities. Most of these recreational programs are promoted or assisted by the Employee Activities Office of the Welfare Association.

Charles H. Cunningham, WA, is the coordinator, and he and his staff are kept busy making plans and providing services for activities in which all employees can participate (i. e., the Hobby Show) as well as keeping abreast of the activities of the many recreational associations and clubs that are within the Department.

The following list will give something of a picture of part of the various types of activities, associations, and clubs that are carrying on interesting and active programs in the Department: Agriculture Symphony Orchestra Association, and Agriculture Choristers; USDA Safety Council; REA Veterans Association, Disabled American Veterans' Auxiliary, and Red Cross; Alpha Zeta Association, Alpha Gamma Rho, Epsilon Sigma Phi, Viking Club, and Organization of Professional Employees of USDA; Agriculture Amateur Movie Makers; REA Athletic Association, Agriculture Riding and Tennis Clubs; SCS, B&F, PMA, and Solicitor's Office Employees Recreation Associations; FCIC Sunshine, and Farm Credit Clubs; Office of Information, BAI, and Agriculture Research Center employees associations; and the Agriculture Employees Recreation Association (AERA) which is a federation of the recreation associations formed in the agencies, offices and bureaus of the Department.

In view of these facts it is obvious that welfare is being promoted, and recreation (Mr. Webster's definition: "refreshment of the strength and spirits after toil") is being enjoyed by the employees.

Miller joins youth project

William R. Miller, graduate of Ohio State University, former county agent in Knox County, Ohio, is now regional extension agent with the New England Pilot Project for Work with Young Men and Women.

Cash awards

THE FOLLOWING individuals have received cash awards for adopted suggestions during the period of October 1 through October 30, 1951. (Detailed information concerning the suggestions may be secured from the Bureau Efficiency Awards Committee):

Bureau of Animal Industry—HOWARD L. MARPLE, Fremont, Mich., $50.

Production and Marketing Administration—HERBERT W. ALLEN, Washington, D. C., $10; F. N. ANDARY, Washington, D. C., $10; MILTON B. BROWN, Chicago, Ill., $15; HAZEL R. BUTLER, Kansas City, Mo., $15; JOSEPH I. CLARK, Kansas City, Mo., $10; MAURICE M. DIAMOND, R. J. NEWGAARD, and CHARLES A. ABRAHAMSON, Minneapolis, Minn., joint award, $75; WILLIAM A. DUNSTAN, Washington, D. C., $10; A. A. HEIMBERG and HAROLD C. BROWN, Washington, D. C., joint award, $10; OSCAR HORVITZ, Chicago, Ill., $10; ADELE G. KEATING, San Francisco, Calif., $10; KATHLEEN KRAFT, Chicago, Ill., $25; META D. MANN, Atlanta, Ga., $10; ANNE P. MCTEER, Chicago, Ill., $40; MILDRED S. MORRIS, Chicago, Ill., $10; LILLIAN PASEK, Chicago, Ill., $15; ALBERT E. PRUGH, Los Angeles, Calif., $70; MAYNARD B. SKINNER, Syracuse, N. Y., $10; ORMA Y. SMITH, Stoneville, Miss., $20.

Rural Electrification Administration—DALE B. BUNDY, Millen, Ga., $10; HELEN WATKINS, Washington, D. C., $10.

Soil Conservation Service—ELIZABETH G. KNIGHT, Columbia, S. C., $75.

Spoilage experts

EPHEMERAL as are the individual molds and other fungi, their control requires ingenuity and tenacity to an even greater degree perhaps than that of the more visibly active despoilers and contaminaters like rats and mice. So, when we open an authoritative work on applied mycology such as the two-volume one, The Fungi, by Wolf and Wolf, and consider the extent and variety of detailed study reported, we are ready to add to the adjectives "ingenious" and "tenacious" another one—"meticulous."

In volume II, there is a chart representing the effects of various low storage temperatures over different periods of time on the spread or suppression of brown rot of peaches. This is from work done in 1928 by the USDA scientists, Dr. Charles Brooks and Dr. J. S. Cooley, the former retired many years ago and the latter this year. In the same chapter, the authors bring in as evidence two other reports of research by these same investigators—on apple rot fungi, done in 1917, and on stone fruit fungi, done in 1922.

This recognition of work done in the earlier years of the now famous group of researchers into fruit and vegetable storage and transportation problems is evidence of the good foundations that have greatly benefited these branches of agriculture and industry.

But Brooks and Cooley are not the only USDA plant industry men in this field whose research work is used in this chapter to show the steady progress of the temperature phase of applied mycology. There you find also H. A. Edson and M. Shapovolov on potato-rot and wilt-producing fungi, John Lauritzen on rot of turnips, Walker and Wellman on rot of onions, W. R. Barger (with H. S. Fawcett) on citrus decay, and J. L. Weimer and L. L. Harter on growth of various fungi; and there are many others of the Department mentioned in the book.

Brief and choice

Christie to Point IV

Harold E. Christie, Assistant Chief of Information for Farmers Home Administration, has joined the staff of Point IV and will be assigned to Quito, Ecuador, as an extension information specialist. Mr. Christie, who began work with FHA at Indianapolis in 1943 and transferred to Washington headquarters in 1945, has taught feature writing in USDA Graduate School.

Thank Congress

At the fall Council meeting of Organization of Professional Employees of Department of Agriculture, the officers were instructed by resolution to write letters of appreciation to the Civil Service Committees of the House and Senate for the recent action respecting wage increases and annual and sick leave legislation. Individual members expressed their intentions to do likewise.

Awards increase

More cash and honor awards were made in 1951 than in 1950, while efficiency awards were made for the first time this year, says Office of Personnel. The report shows 269 cash awards, 155 honor awards, and 20 management improvement or efficiency awards made in 1951.

Three more retirees

As we go to press three employee retirements are announced—Caroline B. Sherman, economic writer and editor, James H. Beattie, research horticulturist, and Dr. Marion C. Goldsworthy, fruit fungicide authority. Mention of more details must be reserved for another number.

Price support losses decline

With most of the perishable commodity inventories liquidated and no upbuilding of them in sight, Commodity Credit Corporation faces smaller financial loss this fiscal year. Realized losses taken by CCC in its 18 years of existence foots up to 982 million dollars, or about 55 million dollars yearly average.

Autumn leaf piece

Our recent digression to rake some autumn leaves has stirred up kind comments from readers of *USDA*. These gracious letters vary from reports of trips afield to see the colors to one letter from Iowa State College enclosing the true chemical reasons why autumn leaves put on their gorgeous hues. See Arizona Highways for October if you want a real refresher course in autumnal glory.

Be your own zone expert

When you send us an address notice for *USDA*, kindly include the Post Office zone number. Regulations require use of zone numbers on all addresses for mailing *USDA*. Thanks.

Television topic

Radio and Television Service in USDA cooperated with California Extension people and radio stations in conferences at Los Angeles and the College of Agriculture at Berkeley last month. Maynard Speece of Office of Information also attended the meeting of National Association of Educational Broadcasters at Biloxi, Miss., November 1-3.

Bernard Gephart

Bernard Gephart, USDA photographer employed in Office of Plant and Operations, died suddenly on October 17, aged 45 years. Mr. Gephart had been with USDA since 1945. He came from Michigan and was a graduate of the National School of Photography in New York. He was buried with military honors by the USDA Post of the American Legion.

Hearne fills in for Ensminger

While Douglas Ensminger is on leave of absence on a 2-year assignment with Ford Foundation in its Southeast Asia projects, his work in Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations is being carried on by Cannon Hearne. Mr. Hearne has been with Extension Service's Division of Field Studies and Training. Dr. Ensminger has served in various USDA capacities since 1939, and is a native of Missouri, holding degrees from University of Missouri and Cornell University.

Cottonseed cheese

In a talk at the meeting of the Cotton Research Congress last summer at Texas A&M College, Vice Director A. W. Melloh of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station said that current emphasis is being placed on developing a satisfactory process of making a cheese food from cottonseed. Protein curds somewhat like unseasoned cottage cheese have been prepared and are undergoing further improvement. And to think that dairy cows used to eat tons of cottonseed!

All aboard for Alaska

Tips for travelers desiring to hit the Alaska trail are supplied to *USDA* by George R. Phillips, Office of the Secretary, who spent some time up there last summer. He says that if you drive to Alaska your gasoline credit cards are good all through Canada and Alaska. If you fly, travel insurance bought from the airlines is now good through Canada and Alaska. Your free baggage allowance by air is 66 pounds instead of the usual 40 pounds.

Land as inflation hedge

Farm Quarterly's last 1951 issue carries an article by Louis H. Bean, office of the Secretary, analyzing the value of using farm land as a hedge against moderate inflation. He states that on the average farm land during World War I period was not adequate protection against the rise in living costs. It again fell short of doing that in the depression period of the 1930's, but it served its purpose well during World War II, and has been at its best since the Korean invasion. Since 1940, he says, those who bought farm land both as a hedge against inflation and a productive business enterprise have done well. They have not only been able to sell their products at a substantial margin over costs, but their property is now worth at least twice as much as in 1940, while their liquid assets in cash, bank deposits and savings bonds are probably five times what they were in 1940.

Wilm in new position

On November 1, Harold G. Wilm took up his duties as Chief of the Division of Forest Influences in the Washington Office of Forest Service. He succeeds Edward N. Munns, retired. Mr. Wilm transferred to the new post from the Pacific Northwest Forest Experiment Station, Portland, Oreg. He has had practical forestry experience in numerous regions of the country, and is a native of Topeka, Kans., with forestry degrees from Colorado College and Cornell University.

First El Salvador market news

E. W. Ranck, agricultural economist, left on August 1 to advise El Salvador on improving its agricultural services under Point IV. In the interval since, the Ministry of Agriculture there has set up the country's first market news system on corn, rice, wheat, beans, sesame, beef, pork, and lard. It appears in the newspapers weekly.

Land reform bibliography

A most comprehensive selective list of references to literature in the English language relating to land tenure and land reform has been prepared by our Library staff, supervised by Donald W. Gooch, bibliography division. It took about four weeks to finish the 19-page list, for use by the enrollees at the conference on land tenure being held at University of Wisconsin.

An unlimited loan

Federal Land Bank of Wichita actually got a query asking for a 33-year, 100 percent Federal loan to buy a 13,000-acre ranch, plus the same 100 percent loan to cover beef feeder and breeder cattle, enough machinery to work the place, 1,000 started baby chicks, 5,000 R. O. P. pullets, and enough to buy their feed. (He didn't mention groceries.) The writer explained he might get an Army contract and so help the defense effort.

Plant immigrants

Plant introduction workers in the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering report that 1,500 fruit and vegetable introductions were received last year from 56 countries. Field crop plants thus introduced totaled 3,822. Some of the newer varieties now being distributed by USDA and State experiment stations trace back to our plant immigrants of 50 years ago.

Ethiopian exhibit

USDA's Exhibits Service shipped a special display to Addis Ababa last month, to be shown at the Ethiopian Trade Fair, November 17–December 2. Its main theme is to present the principal elements of value in an agricultural college and extension service, and to offer our congratulations to the Ethiopian Government for establishing a new institution of this kind for the first time. Constructed of aluminum and other light materials to keep the over-all weight well within reasonable limits because of a transportation rate of $1.43 per pound, the exhibit was routed by airplane from New York to London, thence to Cairo and finally to Addis Ababa. The main messages in the display were suitably translated, and an animated device served to show a series of poster photographs of U. S. college and extension activities to acquaint Ethiopians with possibilities open to them through their own new institution. Harris T. Baldwin, in charge of USDA exhibits, says that this shipment holds the long distance record among all USDA exhibits sent abroad. The Technical Cooperation Administration in the State Department sponsored and financed the exhibit, while our Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations supplied the subject matter.

Readers' reminders

Price support scope and cost

Committee on Agriculture and Forestry of the U. S. Senate is distributing a staff report on the scope and cost of price-support programs for perishables from 1933 to date. It's dated October 17, 1951. No copies from *USDA*.

Hybrid corn names

All hybrid seed corn varieties introduced after October 20, 1951 may be labeled only under names by which they have been introduced, and no synonyms for these names will be recognized. If you want the complete statement by the Hybrid Corn Variety Committee, write *USDA* Editor and ask for No. 2515.

New weed journal

The National Weed Journal, quarterly publication on all phases of weed research and control, and edited by R. D. Sweet, Cornell University, is in the mails. The subscriptions are $4 per year, through the circulation office maintained by Dr. Roy L. Lovvorn, Weed Division, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, at Beltsville, Md.

A good reading tip

In discussing how modern means of communications, transportation, and entertainment have come into the rural scene to cut down on reading time and incentives, President Carl R. Woodward, University of Rhode Island, said this at the USDA Conference on Rural Reading in September: "This is not said in criticism, merely as a statement of fact. Perhaps we are really better informed, despite less time for reading." Your copy of his talk, eight mimeographed pages, is waiting for you in Editorial Office of *USDA*.

Truth inside egg shells

A pictorial color chart illustrating the appearance of yolks and whites in broken out eggs for each of the four qualities in egg grading—AA, A, B, and C—is available from Marketing Services Division, Poultry Branch, Production and Marketing Administration. The chart is helpful to graders and breeders who wish to determine and score interior egg quality on a finer basis than the candling light method provides.

Milk ferment vitamins

A new method of getting high yields of vitamin B_{12} by using propionic bacteria to ferment nutrient solutions or mashes that contain skim milk and whey has been devised by R. E. Hargrove and A. Leviton, Bureau of Dairy Industry. Propionic bacteria are the same ones that make the holes or eyes in Swiss cheese and impart its special flavor. Besides producing vitamin B_{12}, the new process yields propionic acid which is used in several industrial ways. Those who want the full text of the official report may write to *USDA* Editor and ask for No. 2639.

Are you going to freeze?

Thats an ambiguous query, but it refers to using home freezer or community locker space for a storehouse of "out of season" fruits and vegetables—and not to your climate or heating plant. If you are intending "to freeze" in the coming season, get Home and Garden Bulletin No. 10, which gives directions for freezing 35 fruits and 37 vegetables. The new bulletin, which brings together recommendations of the BHNHE and other food and nutrition laboratories, also gives information on thawing and using these foods. Write Office of Information, USDA, or ask your State Extension Service.

Our book look nook

USDA received from publishers and sent to our Library: "American Social Insects" (bees, wasps, ants, etc.), by Charles D. and Mary H. Michener, Entomology Department, University of Kansas; 160 pages with 30 color and 79 gravure plates; D. Van Nostrand Co. Inc., New York; $6.00. "Elements of Plant Protection," by Louis Pyenson, Long Island Agricultural and Technical Institute; 538 pages with line cuts; John Wiley & Sons Inc., New York City; $4.96. "Principles of Weed Control," by Gilbert Ahlgren, Glenn Klingman, and Dale Wolf; 368 pages illustrated; John Wiley & Sons Inc., $5.50.

Plant Industry jubilee

It's pretty late to report the doings at the October 24–26 fiftieth anniversary of Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, but a number of releases and a few talks were mimeographed. Historical reviews and implications of future achievements are included, as given by noted authorities. Ask the Editor of *USDA* for Plant Industry highlights and we'll send what we have while they last.

Get family farm policy facts

Late in October, Secretary Brannan appeared before the Senate Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments, to tell them about the reasons for, and some results from, the recent national rural opinion survey—called the "family farm policy review." Copies of this statement may be had by writing to Editor of *USDA*, asking for the Secretary's Statement, No. 2593.

Stop ant antics

Our Southwest area suffers raids from red harvester ants which haul off crop seeds and hide them for their brood—besides which their sting and bite is irritating. Those who imagine there are none around might just walk over a big nest of these ants—he'll soon cry "uncle." Anyhow, anybody who wants to eradicate these pests should send for E. C. No. 18, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine here.

Changes in soil conservation heads

Last month Dr. Hugh H. Bennett, widely known pioneer in soil improvement and for 16 years chief of the Soil Conservation Service, joined the Office of the Secretary as Special Assistant in charge of conservation and resources. In his place as head of SCS, Dr. Robert M. Salter was transferred from his duty as Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. Dr. Salter has served notably as soil chemist at West Virginia Experiment Station, as head of both soils and agronomy and associate director at Ohio Experiment Station, and as director of the North Carolina Experiment Station just before coming to USDA in 1924. Dr. Bennett will be honored this month by the American Agricultural Editors' Association.

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USDA
Employee News Bulletin
FOR DECEMBER 5, 1951

Secretary's records

PROMPTNESS, ORDER, efficiency, accuracy, and diplomacy are always fighting against error, contradictions, duplications, postponement, and bad public relations in the daily routine of the Secretary's Records Section, part of our Office of Plant and Operations. Three units function there—one for review and control of mail directed to "The Department of Agriculture," "The Secretary of Agriculture" or to "The Office of Plant and Operations"—another, busy classifying and filing formal records and documents that are indispensable to a huge government agency—and the third, handling the processing, indexing, and distribution of the Department Regulations.

Manifestly, it is impractical to attempt any detailed description of all this painstaking and often tedious—but highly important and vital—procedure by the 18 regular employees in Secretary's Records. If a letter of inquiry or criticism involves several programs and policies it is carefully checked and routed around to the responsible "answerers" who are assigned to make suitable replies in each agency. The Secretary's Records Section keeps track of each query and when the reply is returned to the section it is reviewed and routed to other agencies which have a direct interest in it. The idea is to protect the integrity of USDA and guard against slipshod replies, often subject to the official signature of high administrative officers. Obviously, thorough working knowledge of the Department is vital to such a goal. To long delay an answer or to omit somebody or get the replies mixed would be needlessly injurious.

Incoming letters and telegrams numbering nearly 171,000 were handled in fiscal year 1951, and 23,450 pieces of outgoing mail were dispatched by this office alone. Records filed away numbered about 148,000. Space is always a problem. In the past year 117 file drawers of records were taken to the main USDA records depository, while another 117 file drawers of documents were carted to the vast National Archives for permanent filing. Outmoded "housekeeping" routine records are tossed into sacks and sold for paper through a contract handler. Confidential records are sometimes destroyed. Official papers are kept for 5 years, including all of the Secretary's administrative correspondence. Thence they go to the National Archives in its agricultural section. Copies are retained of all the Executive orders dating back to the Theodore Roosevelt and Secretary Wilson era. Early "general and special" orders are filed from No. 1 to No. 174. These were succeeded by "Secretary's Memoranda." Of the memos, already reaching No. 1,300 the earliest ones kept in Secretary's Records Section are signed by Secretary David F. Houston and Assistant Secretary B. T. Galloway in March 1913. (The latter's son, Gordon Galloway, works in Technical Service Division, P & O.)

The official seal of the Department of Agriculture is in the custody of the Chief of the Section, who is H. Kay Berrey (Texas). This seal is affixed only to certain completed documents for purposes of authentication. Over 14,000 impressions were made during the last fiscal year. Some documents require only the impressions while others require the impression to be placed over a green or gold seal. Many documents however, require in addition to the colored seal either a green, or a red, white and blue ribbon.

FAMILY FARM POLICY—The first preliminary conference in the third stage of the family farm policy review, attended by USDA representatives and outside rural consultants, was held here on November 28.

Learn how, tell how

WIDER INTEREST has crept into the thinking of scientific folk about the best and swiftest way to get good, sound information properly disseminated to those most concerned. This problem has begun to take on the character of a subject well worthy of research in its own right.

Dr. Vannevar Bush in an article which appeared in the Atlantic Monthly in July 1945, had something cogent to say on this topic.

> The summation of human experience is being expanded at a prodigious rate, and the means we use for threading through the consequent maze to the momentarily important items is the same as they used in the days of square-rigged ships.

Keeping abreast of new developments and discoveries is measurable to some extent by the volume of publications extant. The Science Division of the Library of Congress estimates that the Library gets 40,000 different scientific and technical periodicals a year. Based on a representative sampling of these, the division estimates they get a total of about 272,000 issues. There are approximately 10.7 articles per issue, so that a total of something like 2,900,000 articles of a scientific and technical nature is received each year. These are in every language, so that besides problems of indexing, and abstracting, there are also problems of translation.

Neither do these figures suggest a final total of existing periodical material. Poland alone, the Library estimates, publishes 106 scientific and technical journals, of which the Library gets only a few. There are in addition a formidable volume of technical reports—some of which get small circulation—by government agencies and others that are often unknown to the cataloguers, bibilographers and indexers. New ways to cope with this avalanche of new ideas and discoveries expressed in print are vitally necessary to make research function at its best.

Oak wilt slowly spreading

Oak wilt disease surveys were made this season by State authorities and by field personnel of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. It seems to have spread slowly in older areas of infection, such as Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota, where it started 30 years or more ago. in 1950–51, oak wilt was found in central and southern Missouri, northern Arkansas, one county each in Kansas, Nebraska, and southern Indiana, a few counties in Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, and at scattered points in the Appalachian region, all reasonably new infestations. Most of these occur in small groups or on a single tree, the survey indicated. How it "jumps" so widely is not yet determined.

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Cotton grading strict

MORE THAN 600 qualities of cotton are commonly recognized under the official cotton standards for grade and staple length, according to Director C. D. Walker of the Cotton Branch, Production and Marketing Administration. The high value placed on seemingly small quality differences makes hundreds of separate quality designations necessary in grading cotton.

The United States Cotton Standards Act makes the use of the official standards mandatory in most sales and purchases of cotton on description in this country. Under agreements with merchant and trade associations in nine cotton importing countries the use of the standards for grade is made virtually universal wherever American cotton is bought and sold.

There are 33 grades of upland cotton in the standards. Staple lengths range from ¾ inch and less, 13/16 inch, ⅞ inch and to longer than 1½ inches, each in steps of 1/32 inch. Graders or "classers" must be able to distinguish differences in color, foreign matter, and ginning preparation in the determination of grade and differences in length of 1/32 inch in the determination of staple length. The length of cotton is the actual measurement under prescribed atmospheric conditions but in practice lengths are determined by comparison of samples of cotton with the official staple types in the standards for various lengths.

Skilled classers can determine the grade and staple length on more than 700 samples per day. Each sample represents a bale of cotton. Differences in grade and staple mean dollars to producers and to buyers. The loan value of a bale of upland cotton ranges from $103.55 for Middling Yellow Stained 13/16 inch to $235.55 for Strict Good Middling 1¼ inches in the current Commodity Credit Corporation loan schedule. Possible variations in values for commercial transactions are even wider than this.

Director Walker of the Cotton Branch knows what he is talking about when he tells you about the intricacies of cotton grading and marketing. You see, he was a grower in Oklahoma for many years. While engaged in cotton farming he decided that he should learn more about cotton quality in order to better market his own crops. So he attended classing schools and learned to class cotton. He was later a licensed cotton classer while still a farmer. He also served as a cotton buyer for a large cooperative before joining USDA. He is familiar with what the grower and merchant require for success in the great Kingdom of Cotton.

In addition to cotton that is classed for merchants, cooperatives, manufacturers, and others by their own employees, USDA employees will class for farmers during the current season approximately 10,000,000 bales of cotton. This work is performed in 30 classing offices located throughout the Belt. Graders are impartial about whose cotton they are grading. During the peak of the season there are about 235 cotton classers working for the Government other than supervisors. These men are supervised by the chairman of their local office who in turn is supervised by the board of supervising cotton examiners in Memphis, Tenn.

Mr. Walker explains that the weather and methods of harvesting largely determine the grade of cotton harvested. Farmers are generally not technically competent to grade their own cotton. In order to overcome this handicap, more than two-thirds of the large crop this season will be classed by the Cotton Branch under the Smith-Doxey Act which provides classification and market news services for farmers organized to promote the improvement of cotton.

As industry sees us

FEDERAL WORKERS come in for scrutiny through the eyes of a trained industrial sales manager—in a piece written about Government agency employees by Joseph J. Trainer, Roller Bearing Company of America, and sent to *USDA* by Hal Jenkins, Chief, Regional Information Division, Soil Conservation Service, Upper Darby, Pa. Here are some excerpts:

> The men who staff the Federal agencies are competent, conscientious, and, in some cases, overworked. They seem to react just like our customers, and are happy to cooperate. We have never run into a buyer or an engineer in Government service looking for a bribe, for all of the talk of mink coats. We met no one in Washington looking for a hand-out. In fact they went out of their way to avoid anything that could possibly be construed as entertainment.

In his further remarks about the things he found in working with Federal employees, Mr. Trainer concluded:

> The greatest irony about the Washington picture is the insecurity of the Federal employees, many of whom took their positions in hopes of finding security. When the budget expires, they never know where or in what kind of job they will find themselves. The competition between agencies is every bit as bitter as the competition between corporations, and the mortality rate among agencies is certainly high. The man back home who owns and operates his own peanut stand is far more secure and often happier than the more highly paid bureau executive.

Said on the side

OLD FRIEND BILL passed away a short time ago, and it's kind of hard to get used to not ever being able to hear from him again. You see, Bill left our old valley when he was a young man to study scientific agriculture at the State university. He sort of specialized in writing pieces about farm folks and telling them about new things and new ways and better times a-coming. Bill was anxious to make life easier for the green youngsters growing up in our valley, and in all the other rural places. So he wrote little novels about the adventures of trained young folks in following out these better methods. Not that any of his books ever sold like Lady Balfour's or Bromfield's, but he peddled a few of them somehow, and got a lot of practice and satisfaction out of it. Then he wrote a lot for the farm papers and always kept a clear vision of the old valley to guide him.

Lots of folks up and down our valley took those farm journals and believed what Bill wrote because they knew he wasn't bluffing them or boosting some patent medicine for cattle or some half-baked scheme of farm salvation. If he couldn't find the germ of an idea that would do some good to people like his home folks, he laid it aside for the highbrows to sell to city magazines whose readers wouldn't ever make much use of it. "My old typewriter isn't for sale and neither am I," Bill used to say. "I never expect to be a sensation, but I really swell up with righteous pride when Uncle Jake down in our valley says he tried something that he read about in my column and it worked mighty nice." No use talking, you're sure to miss a guy like that in anybody's country.

Bill's headstone is out there in the tangled bluegrass above the Catfish river, and they put an epitaph on it that Bill always said was the best piece in the Bible about farm writers and reporters. It's from the Songs of Solomon, the Temple builder: "Come, let us go forth into the fields and let us lodge in the villages. Let us get up early to the vineyards. Let us see if the vine flourishes, whether the tender grapes appear, and the pomegranates bud forth. For at our gates are all manner of fruits, new and old, which I have laid up for thee, my beloved!"

Frosted food plants

There are 11,608 frozen food locker plants reported in the U.S. by Extension Service, together with a State breakdown of numbers as of last July. You may have a copy by writing to *USDA* Editor.

Civil service sense

TRUTH about good government brought home to the public in a forceful, forthright way so that we may retain good employees in the Federal service and attract new ones of high calibre was the theme chosen by Chairman Robert Ramspeck of the U. S. Civil Service Commission before the Civil Service Assembly of United States and Canada at Detroit in October. Speaking of indiscriminate criticism of employees, he said:

I should like to make it clear that I do not hold that Government or its employees are immune from criticism. But criticism must be constructive—not destructive. Criticism should be specific, not general; on an individual basis, not of Government employees as a class, or by association. The sins of the spectacularly guilty few must not be visited upon the many who are innocent, if we are to retain the very form of government we are now so deeply engaged in selling the world over.

Mr. Ramspeck remarked about the need for good, old-fashioned faith for us who have been so puzzled and bewildered by events as to entertain doubts as to our own strength and national character. He continued:

It is unfortunate but true that in times of stress there are those who seek to take advantage of the confusion to further their own aims, to secure political advancement, or to obtain personal power. Many times they are unscrupulous in the way they go about it. Increasingly, the tenor and tempo of attacks upon men in public office, leaders in public affairs, and Government personnel generally, have been stepped up. A lifetime devoted to the public service can be destroyed by this sort of attack if the people do not voice their disapproval of such underhanded tactics.

The Chairman stated that when he first took office with the Commission he placed the problem of fair play for employees high on the list to require immediate and intense attention. He repeated his original statement:

It is my purpose to undertake a campaign to bring about better public understanding of Government employees and what they do. That is a public relations problem. It seems to me to be worth trying. The public is essentially fair when they have the facts and I expect to make every effort to acquaint them fully with those facts.

To show the kind of facts he proposed to give the public, Mr. Ramspeck explained:

So far removed from "Utopia" did Federal employees consider themselves and their employment that 321,291 of them quit their jobs in the year ending last June 30. When the old "wheeze" is trotted out about how impossible it is to fire a Federal employee, our answer can truthfully be that in the same last fiscal year 17,250 were discharged. The turnover rate of Federal employees is approaching 36 percent right now. It is a costly thing to recruit and train workers only to have them leave Government employ for positions in private industry.

Brief and choice

Director Griffee

Director Fred Griffee of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station died on October 31 after many years of station service. His contributions to agricultural advancement stand as a lasting monument to his State and the institution he served so long and well.

Harvey W. French

Harvey W. French, livestock news reporter at Denver ever since the USDA Market News Service has been established there, died recently. He entered Federal service in 1919 at the Kansas City livestock market. He was a native of Chicago. Until a few weeks before his death Mr. French had never taken even one day of sick leave.

Three to Cotton Conference

Three members of the Cotton Branch, Production and Marketing Administration—Rodney Whitaker, H. C. Slade, and Dorothy Nickerson—have been attending the meeting at LeHavre, France, on universal cotton standards agreements. They went to discuss the proposed new standards for American upland cotton.

Pease new 4–H assistant leader

Wilbur F. Pease, after 20 years as a teacher of vocational agriculture and county 4-H club agent, has taken the position of assistant State club leader for New York State at Cornell University. His most recent youth leadership was in Suffolk County, Eastern Long Island.

Busy Mr. Biddle

Elmer R. Biddle, chief of the Federal-State Market News Service in Philadelphia, has just rounded out 35 years with USDA. He began it as a reporter of market news at St. Louis in 1916, after which he set up the service at the Baltimore market. He has been in the Quaker City since 1919.

Lab workers return

Under headline "return of the natives," the U. S. Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wis., reports that Dale Turner is back from a year at Larvik, Norway, where he helped develop new products for insulation wall board; and H. D. Bruce has returned from forestry development efforts in the Ryukyu Islands.

Spreading home values

Our Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics during the 1950–51 fiscal year had 65 new popular and technical bulletins published or submitted for publication, 45 articles in 25 different scientific and professional journals, 76 press releases sent to food editors and writers, and did 10 radio and television scripts. The 5 Bureau motion picture films in the files of State libraries had 15,146 showings before an estimated one million persons.

Chlorella farming

The possible mechanism of photosynthesis in the utilization of solar energy applied to "chlorella" farming, is embodied in a recent formula released by scientists at the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Md. Chlorella farming is a new experimental process in which one-celled miscroscopic plants are grown in vats in sunshine in an effort to determine the feasibility of harnessing the sun's energy through the process which goes on in the chlorophyll-containing tissues of plants. Thus far only a theoretical angle is involved, but it's worth watching.

Save mails for Santa

USDA is trying to comply with the Government suggestion that all heavy bulk mailings of books, forms and such printed matter be withheld during the period from December 1 to December 26. It was hoped that field offices would get their orders in for goods that had to be sent parcel post so as to fit into this curtailed schedule.

Tip to statue erectors

A $5,000 check was accepted last month by the Washington State College Regents for the Fred W. Frasier Memorial Scholarship, open to graduate students in turkey research. Friends of Mr. Frasier subscribed to such a tribute fund at his death in lieu of sending funeral flowers. Maybe it's better than medals and statues, as well.

Burchard retires

Russel D. Burchard retired from the Farm Credit Division, Office of the Solicitor, on October 31, after more than 26 years of Government service. He will engage in law practice in the District of Columbia. He has an LL. B. degree from New York Law School. Prior to doing legal work for FCA, Mr. Burchard worked as an attorney for the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

From India to Iowa

T. A. Bancroft, director of the statistical laboratory at Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, reports to *USDA* that a former statistical adviser to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research at New Delhi, India, will be visiting professor of statistics at the college during the spring term, beginning March 27, 1952. He is Dr. P. V. Sukhatme, chief of the statistics branch of Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations.

Off to Liberia

Two more Negro agricultural specialists are now in Liberia under Point IV missions. They are Ambrose B. Lewis, engineer from the Agricultural and Technical College, Greensboro, N. C., with degrees at Virginia State College and Cornell University; and Sandy J. McCorvey, extension specialist, Tuskegee graduate, and holder of a M. S. degree from Michigan State College.

Moseman heads PISAE

Dr. A. H. Moseman, former Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, in charge of its research, is now Chief of the Bureau, since the transfer of Dr. Salter to Soil Conservation Service. Dr. Moseman is a native of Nebraska, and received degrees of B. S. and M. S. from University of Nebraska, with a Ph. D degree from the University of Minnesota in plant genetics. Early in his career with USDA, Dr. Moseman worked on improvement programs for wheat, oats, and flax. He was with a 3-man mission to help several Asiatic countries.

Tobacco market service

Fully 98 percent of the big 1950 U. S. tobacco crop of more than two billion pounds was inspected by Production and Marketing Administration workers under the Tobacco Inspection Act. Quality information for growers thus secured by PMA covered all auction leaf deals, plus considerable tobacco in hogsheads and 20 million pounds of cigar leaf type. To improve the preparation of tobacco for market, PMA field personnel held 1,007 meetings to demonstrate processes to 39,000 growers. A total of 1,048 market news reports were issued, with 80 percent of these sent direct to growers when their leaf was ready for sale.

Cattle shipping regulations

A new act of Congress authorizes restricted interstate movement of cattle affected with either paratuberculosis or brucellosis. Only those affected cattle going directly to public markets for immediate slaughter, or a valuable breeding animal reshipped to the original owner at point of origin can move in interstate commerce. Regulations covering issuing of required certificates are being prepared by Bureau of Animal Industry.

4–H foundation activity

Members of the Builders Council for the support of charter provisions of the new National 4–H Club Foundation, Inc., have been named. Everett Mitchell, National Broadcasting Company, is chairman, and R. F. Poole, Clemson College, past president of Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, is honorary chairman. The temporary office of the Foundation is in charge of Edward Aiton, South Building, USDA.

Use of GS–6, 8, and 10

Office of Personnel states that it is not anticipated that use of the grades GS–6, 8, and 10 will be necessary or justifiable especially for positions previously in the scientific and professional service. Hereafter, they say, any USDA agency desiring to allocate any positions (except where published specifications make provision for such grades) in any of these three grades must submit job descriptions and supporting data to Pers. for prior approval.

Caroline Sherman retires

Economist, supervising editor, and information writer for Bureau of Agricultural Economics since its formation in 1922, and before that with the old Bureau of Markets, Miss Caroline B. Sherman has retired. She was twice cited for recognition—in May 1951 for a Superior Service Award, and again on October 31, 1951, during the annual Outlook Conference. She was especially active in launching the newest BAE research publication, "Agricultural Economics Research," and was editor of the "Land Policy Review." Three of her brothers and one sister formerly worked in USDA—Wells Alvord Sherman, James Morgan Sherman, Henry Clapp Sherman, and Martha Alvord Sherman. Two of her nieces are still employed in USDA—Grace S. Cobb, microbiologist, and Elsie S. Manny, social scientist.

USDA in flood relief

Mainly using four agencies to perform various tasks assigned, USDA has moved ahead under the Flood Relief Act of 1951, which carries appropriations of 48 million dollars, of which 30 million dollars are for loan funds. Production and Marketing Administration handled emergency livestock feed distribution, and is now doing land restoration work, often using the technical services of Soil Conservation Service. This work covers five States where floods were the worst, plus parts of Nebraska and Iowa where considerable land was also damaged. SCS is doing channel restoration on creeks and rivers by employing contractors and trying to spread this work around evenly where needed. SCS also provides technical help for individual farm reclamation. Farmers Home Administration handles the disaster loans and other loans for building repairs and replacement of the normal operating facilities. Extension Service furnishes building aids, tips on furniture and fixture repairs, equipment salvaging, and cropping plans.

Readers' reminders

Retirement pamphlet

Central Supply Section, Office of Plant and Operations, has a good stock on hand now of the revised edition of Retirement Pamphlet 18. It is being used by retirement advisers and employees who want information about official retirement provisions.

Potato eyes future

USDA's study of next year's potato requirements shows that national potato production for 1952 of about 350 million bushels should be ample. In fixing that goal, USDA authorities suggested State acreage goals to meet it. Those who want this breakdown may ask *USDA* Editor for No. 2676.

Income taxes for co-ops

Provisions of the new income tax law of October 20, 1951, as they touch upon the business affairs of cooperative associations of producers are neatly put together by George J. Waas, and issued as Miscellaneous Report 156, by Farm Credit Administration. Get copies there while the supply lasts.

Foreign seed test service

Making available to the public complete results of tests of seed samples for germination, purity, and noxious weed content when received from or sent to any foreign country is a newly announced service by the Seed Act Division, Grain Branch of PMA. Copies of the announcement may be had from Editor of *USDA*. Ask for No. 2694.

How our food held out

Distribution of United States food in the fiscal year of 1950–51 is given in great detail in a 12-page mimeograph treatise issued late in October by USDA agencies. We consumers at home ate 11 percent more than the year previous and food exports of about 19 million tons were 14 percent of the domestic distribution last year. Readers who wish this vital data for fireside arguments, may get same by writing USDA Editor for No. 2544.

Fruit virus book

Agricultural Handbook 10, "Virus Diseases, and Other Disorders with Viruslike Symptoms, of Stone Fruits in America" contains 71 articles partly illustrated in color, and written by State and Federal pathologists. It should assist investigators, especially those separated widely geographically, in comparing results and planning research. This USDA document sells for $2.50 at office of Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office.

Guides for big eaters

The New York metropolitan area's 13 million people require 20 billion pounds of food each year. The cooperative Extension Regional Food Marketing Program in the New York area has completed three years of consumer service—which translates into producer service also. A few weeks ago Carlton E. Wright of this cooperative venture, operated by the Extension services in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, spoke to the USDA administrative staff in Washington. A circular that gives the ways and means taken there for greater marketing and food using efficiency with better diets at reasonable cost is available at the offices of the Extension Food Marketing Program, 149 Church Street, New York 7, N. Y.

Our book look nook

USDA has received and sent to our Library here: Some discussions of old and new traits of life in the Black Belt of the South, "Plantation County" by Dr. Morton Rubin, now studying in the Middle East; published by University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, N. C., $3.50. * * * "Raising Small Animals for Pleasure and Profit," by Frank G. Ashbrook, Department of the Interior, with dedication to Gove Hambidge of Food and Agriculture Organization; published by D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., 250 Fourth Avenue, New York 3, N. Y., $4.00.

Good rural church booklet

Farmers Home Administration calls attention to Dr. Ralph A. Felton's new booklet, "A New Gospel of the Soil." It carries stories of 16 rural churches that have promoted land ownership, soil conservation and direct aid to struggling young people. It even points out how FHA can insure mortgages made by church organizations. Dr. Felton is head of the rural church department at Drew Theological Seminary, Madison, N. J. His book costs 40 cents. No copies available through any office here.

"Coals of fire"

At the recent Boone County Farm Bureau meeting at Lebanon, Ind., Under Secretary Clarence J. McCormick praised the Farm Bureau for its role in developing a strong and efficient agriculture. He recited many ways in which Farm Bureau leaders have supported wise and progressive legislation through the years. But this must not keep farmers from reexamination of their current programs for betterment, he stated. If you wish a digest of his remarks, ask *USDA* Editor for No. 2535.

Interior has its "policy review"

"Rebuilding the Federal Range" is a new Bureau of Land Management circular dealing with the great potentialities and needs of resource conservation on the public domain. This area, one-tenth of the U. S. in size, is managed for mineral, watershed, recreational and grazing uses. Interior Department explains in respect to this circular that it is "submitted for discussion and study." It's 22 pages, with maps and photographs. Write Director, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C. We have no copies.

Haberdasher hunches

Mr. Man, are you one of the 51 percent who take someone with you when buying a new suit of clothes, or are you part of the 47 percent who trust their own wisdom for it—or maybe the other small proportion who purchase by mail? Based on over 2,600 interviews in all areas of the country, and using Research and Marketing Act funds, USDA has issued "Men's Preferences Among Wool Suits, Coats and Jackets." Order if you must from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, at 30 cents a copy. We have none to send.

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USDA
Employee News Bulletin
FOR DECEMBER 19, 1951

Holiday Greetings

Christmas is always a joyous time of the year, with family reunions, exchange of gifts and greetings, and strengthening of the bonds of friendship and fellowship. But the real joy of Christmas lies deeper in our hearts, in the reminder that we are not alone in time of trial and need, that we *DO* have the assurance of divine help and guidance. Our hopes and efforts for peace and brotherhood are in accord with the inspiring message of that first Christmas: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

We in USDA are fortunate. The nature of our work permits us to strive daily toward peace and good will.

In building peace, we all contribute. Some of us work, directly and indirectly, with representatives of other countries. We work with FAO, ECA, the State Department, TCA, various missions abroad, and the general undertakings of OFAR. All these are connected with the job of establishing peace. All of us have some kind of responsibility in United States agriculture, which has been producing the food that helps us travel along the way that leads to peace. All of us have had some part, large or small, in making our agriculture efficient and healthy—through scientific work, farm programs, many helpful and constructive services.

We contribute also to the creation of good will. Democracy might be described as good will in action. All of our farm programs, our research and services, are expressions of active democracy. By doing our jobs well, we help to make democracy live. By making democracy serve the interest of our people, we build a stronger Nation and demonstrate the worth of democracy to those in other lands who might doubt its value.

Good will is needed to make democracy work, and a working democracy creates good will.

For us in USDA, "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men" should not be the spirit of the Christmas season alone, but the core of our day-to-day purpose all the year long.

CHARLES F. BRANNAN,
Secretary of Agriculture.

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Christmas trees galore

FULLY 29 to 30 million Christmas trees (one for every 5 persons) will be harvested this 1951 season, and nearly 10 million of them will come from Canada. Prior to 1950 we had been getting 7 million evergreens from the Dominion, where many Americans own or lease forested areas for this purpose. More women are taking a direct part in harvesting or woods operations, especially in the Northwest, according to Arthur M. Sowder, Forest Service, because they like the outdoor work and find it not too difficult. They usually do the sorting, grading, and bundling of Christmas greens.

The public is demanding better quality Christmas trees, Forest Service says. Records show, said Mr. Sowder, that many of the trees left in the lots after Christmas are of poor quality, and never should have been cut in the first place, but should have been left growing with a little pruning or shearing done on them. Operators of plantations now give instructions with pictures to show their cutters what to take and what to leave for more shapely growth later on. No price controls for Christmas trees are in effect. Forest Service feels that there will be ample stocks on the market so that prices should be "agreeable to consumers."

In buying a Christmas tree, Mr. Sowder suggests the following: (1) Buy early; feel the twigs and limbs to see if they are fresh; (2) avoid those that are dropping their needles on the slightest touch; (3) make a fresh cut at the butt and put the tree in water when taken from the sales lot; (4) store the tree in a cool shady, moist spot—basement or garage; (5) put butt of tree in a water container when setting it up in the house; (6) splash water on it thoroughly daily—even when it's in the house, if the wife doesn't see you; and (7) observe the usual cautions about tree lights and flammable surroundings.

Tree cultural experiments are always in progress. The red pine shows promise as a plantation-grown Christmas tree. In 1941 the Forest Service established a 58-acre red pine plantation in the Lower Michigan National Forest, where the trees were planted at the rate of 1,200 to the acre, 6 by 6 foot spacing. Survival was good, and 2 years ago an average of about 89 trees were sold per acre at an average stumpage of 54 cents each. This made the gross income per acre about $48. Subtracting the sales cost and payment to counties in lieu of taxes, the net was about $34 per acre.

Our messengers

TO BRING AND TAKE are the prosaic duties of USDA messengers (175 here and 89 afield), who daily make their "appointed rounds." It is by their routine services that the countless memos, notes, and tokens—both momentous and trivial—are exchanged to form the living arteries of our busy and complicated institution.

Trusted bearers of communications have always been among the most vital and necessary of human workers * * * the hero who took the word from "Ghent to Aix" * * * those who brought news of the victory at Marathon * * * the valiant ride of Paul Revere * * * the pony expressmen of the prairies * * * Major Rowan and his message to Garcia * * * fire wardens of the forests * * * rural carriers braving blizzards. Not all our messengers, of course, may aspire to be classed with such couriers of song and story, but their common tradition calls for responsible performance of an indispensable job. We who regularly depend upon them should be as quick to praise their zeal as we are to prod them for their tardiness.

Good will for research

RESEARCH—"that winnowing and sifting by means of which the truth shall be known"—enjoys particular favor as the trusted servant of agriculture. Remarks on this line by P. V. Cardon, Administrator of the Agricultural Research Administration, are helpful lest anyone be misguided into masking something else as "research" so as to hurt its present popularity. Speaking before the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities at Houston, Tex., he said:

"The heritage enjoyed by agricultural research affords heartening assurance that the problems of today and tomorrow will be met even more successfully than those of yesterday and the days before. This heritage embraces the proved and frequently demonstrated confidence of the American people. Let us never forget that agricultural research enjoys that trust. Let us never abuse it. Let us always continue in the diligent search for truth, which *is* research.

"Continued confidence of intelligent people in the potential of agricultural research is warranted because researchers in this field progressively are better prepared to carry out their responsibilities. They have better comprehension of their tasks, are better trained, and possess better techniques—which all stems from improved education.

"Another aspect of the heritage of agricultural research lies in the institutional relationships that have developed through the present century between State Land-Grant Colleges and the Federal Department of Agriculture. They provide a basis of cooperation in the broadest sense, and there is no substitute for them. If nurtured by mutual trust, they will stand always as a bulwark against the strains and stresses apt to be encountered.

"So let each of us have respect and tolerance of the other man's responsibility, for the limitations under which he has to deal, and with the pressures that constantly beset him."

Home-grown security

LIVE-AT-HOME plans and pay-for-the-farm accounts fit together like garden greens and rainwater. That's why Farmers Home Administration borrowers throughout the Nation have taken up with enthusiasm locally adapted and sound home subsistence projects planned with the help of FHA field supervisors. The bulging larders and storages of these folks match the bulging file of reports submitted to FHA headquarters. These tell the methods used to promote livestock raising and household fruit, vegetable and meat production and preservation.

They show typical examples of thrift in grocery bills, coupled with loan accounts paid in full and on time. These reports have been checked and their contents used to advance nutrition programs, according to Gertrude Drinker, FHA home economist. In this field work with borrowers' families, the assistance of State college specialists in horticulture, home economics, livestock and meat, and disease and insect control have been of great help in fitting the programs to the needs and conditions of each area.

One FHA supervisor in Missouri said that an annual payment on a 4-percent amortized loan of $10,000 is about $505—a sum comparatively easy to realize in the cash value of home-grown foods. To show that it is attainable, he cites a family of 6 persons who canned 970 quarts of fruits and vegetables and stored nearly 50 bushels from last year's production. A Minnesota family of 4 persons got food values at about $75 apiece from a garden plot 75 by 100 feet. On a borrower's place in the Texas "blackland" a household grew 36 varieties of vegetables for fresh consumption by 6 persons each month of the past year, and besides that, they canned 360 quarts of produce worth about $108.

A report from Florida listed a family's annual garden schedule. In February and March they planted Irish potatoes, turnips, cabbage, snap and lima beans, peas, carrots, beets, squash, spinach, sweet corn, and tomatoes. Until October they had a fresh, daily supply, and from October through to March they enjoy greens from collards, turnips and cabbage, plus 140 quarts of vegetables canned to fill out the off-season period. This borrower sells eggs, butter, and other home-grown foods to pay for all sugar, spice, flour, tea, and coffee bought at the grocery. Finally, a North Carolina borrower's live-at-home project from 2½ acres of garden and truck crops (600 quarts canned) enabled him to pay his yearly FHA account in full.

Extension experience

HELPING FOLKS to help themselves has been the goal of State-Federal Agricultural Extension staffs for 35 years. But it takes a fellow with a rich background and a warm sympathy for this potent effort to distill the right tonic for us to take when considering this subject. Such a person is Kenneth F. Warner, now with Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, who spent many years as Extension Meat Specialist in Bureau of Animal Industry.

Ever since the time when Kenneth was hired out to a farmer in Nebraska, at the age of 15 years, he has maintained an alert mental outlook plus the ability to teach and to philosophize. Here are a few of his conclusions about the life of an extensioneer:

You may never be a banker, but most of the bankers and businessmen will be your friends and often ask your advice. So will hundreds of others.

You will never live in a palace but you can expect to have a roof that does not leak. That's especially true because in Extension you'll learn a bit of carpentry along the way.

You'll see your name in print so often that the thrill will largely disappear. You will be misquoted so often that it won't hurt much.

Some of your days will be a series of arguments, bickerings, frustrations, and failures. Then will come the day when some crusty, hard shell whom you never could reach will grab you and tell you about the advantages of lime on pasture, brag to you about his new variety of hybrid corn, invite you out to see the new cookstove or freezer in his kitchen, and end it all by bawling you out because you have not put those practical things into your program.

That night you will sleep happily, your wounds healed, your troubles over, your muddy car the grandest chariot any conquering warrior ever rode.

Said on the side

CHRISTMAS DOINGS stir up a lot of feelings which sort of reflect the bright and dazzling hopes that you had as a kid up there in our old valley. For one thing, it reminds you forcibly that maybe you never made out to do all the good and brave and self-sacrificing deeds that a kid yearns and dreams of doing—not because of any Christmas gifts in the offing—but just because you went to high school and learned a little here and there in a sketchy way about fellows of fact and fiction who went around helping others and lifting the fears and burdens from hungry stomachs and weary hearts.

You recall how we read Ivanhoe and the Idylls of the Kings and the Great Stone Face; how we thrilled at Dicken's tales of the child's dream of a star, Tiny Tim and Bob Cratchett; and the mountain monks of another story who used their shaggy dogs to rescue lost travelers amid the Alpine snows. You pored over the life of Sir Launcelot with shiny armor and waving plumes when knighthood was in flower, and marveled at the hero yarns of Henty. Some of the best Bible characters gave you deep reverence for living well and living honorably—like David and Jonathan, Ruth and Boaz, and the Wise Men of the East—and the Life they came to usher into a sad and bitter world so that men might find their narrow pathway bright and beautiful.

Besides the mighty men of American history which you much admired, there were members of your own family of a past generation to think about. They did so much with so very little to ease the cares of neighbors and raise the orphans, and build little churches and lonely schoolhouses out there in the wilderness—so that nobody might say they had failed in their brief and rugged lives to erect the foundations of liberty and knowledge, truth and reason.

So you used to ponder there by yourself near the dancing firelight of mother's kitchen—wondering what manner of person you would finally become, and if perchance some happy traits of inheritance or environment might clothe you also with just enough stamina and faith to make you a doer of decent and dutiful things that would leave the community a trifle better for your having lived there for awhile in our valley.

In all those imaginings of bygone youth you seldom stopped to think that life ahead meant one search only for the glory at the rainbow's end, and only one seedtime and one harvest. You visioned only the song of birds, the glow of dawn, and the hue of flowers—for the time of the locust was yet to come. Hence the kindest wish and the best gift we can give to one another now is that a goodly part of that hopeful dream may have become reality to warm us inwardly on Christmas day.

Brief and choice

Eisenhower honored

Milton S. Eisenhower, president of Penn State College, is the newly elected president of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities. During the early 1930's he was chief of information, USDA.

Gerth portrait

Employees of the Applications and Loans Division, Rural Electrification Administration, paid for a portrait done in oils of their late chief, Arthur W. Gerth, killed in a June 1951 air crash with five other REA personnel. It was presented at a memorial service.

Bartilson doubles duties

Dr. T. H. Bartilson, Assistant Chief, Division of Animal Husbandry, Bureau of Animal Industry, has been named extension animal husbandman for Extension Service. He will serve temporarily there on a part-time basis while continuing his normal duties in BAI.

Texas loans

Federal Land Bank of Houston, Tex., says that in the first six months of 1951, 25.4 percent of all land mortgages filed for record in Texas were land bank loans. The total amount of loans closed last October exceeded any October there in 34 years of the bank's operation.

Grain Pest Committee

As a single authoritative point to which the public may go for matters related to insect and rodent damaged grain, Memo No. 1255 from Office of the Secretary establishes a committee to handle the subject: Randall Latta BEPQ, chairman; Clyve W. Jackson, Grain Branch, PMA; Wallace Ashby, PISAE; and M. P. Jones, Extension Service.

Plan pesticide survey

State PMA Committees have received word from Raub Snyder, Assistant Administrator for Production, that a second State-by-State survey of stocks and probable demand for pesticides and related chemicals will soon be undertaken. The survey of last season proved invaluable in fixing the claims for pesticides needed by farmers and gardeners.

Demaree retired

Juan B. Demaree, plant pathologist, retired October 31 after more than 33 years of work with Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. In recent years he specialized in diseases of blueberries and in obtaining virus-free stocks of strawberry varieties. Mr. Demaree lives at 7008 Eversfield Drive, Hyattsville, Md.

Safety men to Navy

Earl W. Wheeler, Soil Conservation Service, and G. Russell Cotner, Bureau of Animal Industry, have left USDA to accept positions as safety engineers with the U. S. Navy Department. USDA Safety Council adopted resolutions of thanks for their services, as well as for work done by Charles M. Fergusson, formerly with Office of Personnel.

Not Indian warfare

Region 3 in Forest Service had a recent announcement about Hollis Palmer which isn't as bad as it seems, to quote: "An unofficial count shows that Hollis has dispatched or helped dispatch some 1,700 Indians in the last 3½ months." (This merely refers to fire and insect control dispatching done by Palmer.)

Premier of phone movie

At Forest City, Iowa, where a new USDA 40-minute colored reel entitled "The Telephone and the Farmer" was produced and acted by local people, the first public showing has been scheduled for December 19. Administrator Claude Wickard and other REA and public officials were to attend.

Only 38 at 83

Jeremiah S. Allen, Chicago retiree, writes with a vim that he is past 83 but "still going strong and as good as 40." He was reinstated in 1943, he writes, when 75 years old, for wartime service. After 3 years Mr. Allen finally retired for good in 1945, and resides at 2607 East 74th Place, Chicago 49, Ill.

Himebaugh to South America

Keith Himebaugh, former Director of Information for USDA, left by motor car along the Pan-American Highway on November 15 for his new post under Point IV program in El Salvador. Mr. and Mrs. Himebaugh will live in El Salvador, but his duties in setting up agricultural extension information systems will take him to most of the countries of Latin-America during his 2-year assignment. He came to work in USDA in 1934 from a position in the information offices of the Michigan State College. Old associates in USDA held a farewell party in his honor just prior to his departure.

Neale F. Howard

Dr. Neale F. Howard, Columbus, Ohio, nationally known entomologist, died November 1, 1951, just before his 61st birthday. Dr. Howard first came to work in USDA on April 1, 1915, as an agent in the then Bureau of Entomology. Except for overseas service in World War I, Dr. Howard served continuously in BEPQ from April 16, 1916, until August 31, 1949, when ill health forced his retirement. Dr. Howard was widely known for his research on the biology and control of the Mexican bean beetle, and particularly for his pioneer work in the utilization of rotenone-containing insecticides against this insect.

Sky cameras

During the 1950 fiscal year, Production and Marketing Administration put approximately 455,000 square miles under contract for new aerial photography, and in 1951 about 361,000 square miles. Fully $280,000 of cooperative funds from States, counties and elsewhere were received by PMA to use in the programs of the past two years. These photographic maps of farms and rural areas are used in PMA's conservation work.

Van Doren to Peru

Dr. Cornelius A. Van Doren, director of research for USDA's Soil Conservation Service in Illinois for 16 years, and before that head of University of Illinois agronomy department, has taken charge of research project direction at the experiment station at Tingo Maria, Peru. This was the first of several jointly operated United States and Latin American experiment stations, and the present work under Point IV is being conducted there.

Soft water milk

Will lactic flow respond like soap suds to soft water treatment? Dr. T. H. Blosser of Washington State College is testing it with 28 dairy cows this winter, alternating the groups between soft and hard water consumption. He expects to have the answer for dairymen by midsummer of 1952, as to respective merits of hard and soft water for dairy herds.

Tips for chips

T. M. Whiteman, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., has found that even the most unsuitable potato varieties for making chips and french fries can be coaxed into turning out free of discolorations if the operator soaks the raw slices prior to frying for a couple of minutes in water slightly acidulated. If all varieties, instead of a few most suited to the process, could be used it would simplify purchasing the present 20 million bushels diverted to chips. Mr. Whiteman used hydrochloric acid, which aids digestion, in a weak solution with water.

Contacts for tax facts

Terms that perplex farmers (and even lawyers) in making proper income tax returns to Uncle Sam are eased a lot by Cooperative Extension Service. Early in December Extension economists, in cooperation with the Bureau of Internal Revenue began distribution of circulars with numerous details of the complex 1951 income tax law fully explored. E. P. Callahan of USDA Extension staff worked with several State College economists to perfect the text in time for use by farmers through their county agents. Here are the current editions on hand, with the ones responsible for regional handling: Southern States, W. L. Turner, North Carolina State College, Raleigh, N. C.; Central States, I. F. Hall, Wisconsin College of Agriculture, Madison, Wis.; Northeastern States, P. L. Putnam, Connecticut State College, Storrs, Conn.; and for New York State, Van L. Hart, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

SCS makes safe-driving record

Soil Conservation Service auto drivers of the Northern Great Plains won third place this year in the Western Area division of National Safety Council's fleet safety contest for passenger cars. A. E. McClymonds, Lincoln, Nebr., Regional Director for SCS, says that the records on which the award was based indicated that SCS vehicles numbering 159 were driven over two million miles, with only 27 minor accidents, or at the rate of 1 to each 75,400 miles. Moreover, 57 of these SCS employees have 15-year, and 169 have 10-year, safe-driving records, which means not less than 2,000 annual miles without vehicular accidents.

Arthur W. Turner

Arthur W. Turner, Assistant Chief, supervising engineering research, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering died at Hyattsville, Md., on November 17 after several months' illness. A native of Worthington, Minn., a graduate of Iowa State College and extension engineer in soil erosion control for Iowa State and associate professor of farm engineering there for several years, Mr. Turner joined USDA in 1944 after spending some time in educational advisory work with International Harvester Company. He was a past president of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers and belonged to other honorary and professional units. Author of many texts and articles on farm mechanics, equipment, and structural design, Mr. Turner had organized many research projects in cooperation with State experiment stations. He is survived by his wife and mother and three children.

Want castors faster

At the request of the United States Munitions Board, USDA has offered an increased program to grow castor beans on 200,000 acres in suitable southwest States. Because of the greater need for castor oil for military uses, the growers are offered special inducements through contracts to raise castor beans in 1952. Increased output over the 84,000 acres planted under a similar project in 1951 is possible with funds provided by the Defense Production Act.

Hiring indefinite employees

Office of Personnel has sent out a notice about new Civil Service regulations to permit agencies to make noncompetitive appointments of present and former indefinite employees. Any indefinite worker in the competitive service who is serving in a nondefense agency without having competitive status, may be appointed without a break in service of more than 30 days in any defense agency. Moreover, any present or former employee who does not have competitive status and whose last service was in the competitive service as an indefinite employee may be appointed in any agency—if he has received a notice of separation, or has been separated within the preceding 90 days due to reduction in force.

Forest Service personals

Two retirements and two shifts of officers mark recent doings in U. S. Forest Service. Christopher M. Granger, Assistant Chief, retires January 30, 1952, after 45 years of successive service as forest assistant and supervisor, assistant and regional forester in the Rocky Mountains and Pacific Northwest, and organizer of Civilian Conservation Corps for FS. Since 1935 Mr. Granger has been in charge of National Forest Administration. He is a native of Michigan and graduate of the State College there, and was major in the army forestry corps in World War I. He got the USDA Distinguished Service Award in 1951. * * * Mrs. Pearl L. Anthony, Division of Forest Economics, retired October 30 after 28 years with FS. She was secretary in the office handling forest land surveys.

Edward P. Cliff, native of Utah and graduate in forestry at Utah State Agricultural College in 1931, who was in charge of wildlife management on 20 national forests in Oregon and Washington from 1934 to 1939, and later supervisor of the Siskiyou and Fremont National Forests, will be the successor of Mr. Granger as Assistant Chief of FS. * * * Donald E. Clark, Assistant Regional Forester in California, will take over Mr. Cliff's duties as regional forester for the Rocky Mountain Region. He is a native of Illinois, and hold a B. S. degree in forestry from Michigan State College. He has held top positions in Medicine Bow, San Juan, Arapaho, and Cherokee National Forests. He became identified with the California work in 1947.

Readers' reminders

Data for Personnel

Vest pocket information pamphlet on new pay scales under Public Law 201 and a circular on the improvement of office letters are being distributed by our Office of Personnel. See your own Pers officer.

Dixie corn improvers

A combination of modern corn growing methods in the South that get average yields of 72 bushels an acre, against 15 bushels average pre-World War II, are outlined in a recent release. Write *USDA* Editor for 2764.

Tomes from Tolley

Royalties from Howard C. Tolley's book, "The Farmer Citizen at War,"—written when he was chief of BAE—were assigned by him to buy books on economics which USDA Library would not ordinarly get. Last October the final purchase was made from the fund and it leaves USDA richer by 146 good books. (He is now with Ford Foundation.)

Sugar beet bulletin

A newly revised and improved edition of Sugar Beet Culture in the Northern Great Plains area, FB 2029, is being distributed by our Office of Information. The author is S. B. Nuckols, formerly agronomist with our Division of Sugar Plant Investigations.

Dealers boost conservation

Farm Equipment Institute, composed of local farm machinery dealers, has published a new booklet, "The Farm Equipment Dealer and His Soil Conservation District." This two-color job tells why implement men should be aggressive workers for soil and water conservation.

Personnel management

Reading lists in all fields of personnel administration are carried in Library List 33, revised bibliography. Titles found in the four-page list and the list itself are available to readers through USDA Library and its branches.

Thrifty retirement

General information for retirees about various regions of the country with respect to climate, housing, taxes, and living expenses is found in a new booklet, "How to Retire on a Small Income." Write Harrar Publications, Greenlawn, N. Y., at $1 a copy.

Pest killers for crops

Outline of the outlook for supplies of insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides during 1952 are contained in a recent statement well in advance of the growing season. Buying for present and future delivery is a sound bit of advice included in the release. Write *USDA* Editor for your copy, and ask for 2774.

Political activity

"Political Activity of Federal Officers and Employees" is the title of a timely explanatory circular just issued for Government workers by Civil Service Commission. This 34-page pamphlet discusses the provisions of the Hatch Act in relation to participation by certain classes of Federal employees in any forms of direct political activity. Many classes are entirely exempt, and you should know the law well in view of the 1952 campaigns coming up. See your own Pers office.

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